

SPORTS PINK

75p

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Kevin Davies:
Why I loved
life at Saints -
the first time!



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SAINTS 2 SEVILLA 0



GIFT OF THE GAB

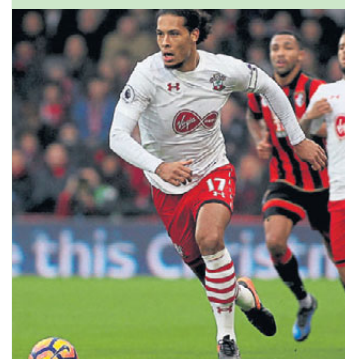
Manolo strikes to seal friendly win

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How van Dijk saga
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Mauricio Pellegrino

Pellegrino in debt to Benitez

SAINTS boss Mauricio Pellegrino can't wait to face Newcastle in his debut Premier League season.

That's because the games against the Toon Army will bring the Argentine face to face with one of the biggest influences on his career, writes ADAM LEITCH.

Newcastle boss Rafa Benitez signed him as a player for the Reds in 2005, and after his career ended promoted him to his coaching staff at both Anfield and Inter Milan.

Of all the managers Pellegrino has worked with, Benitez seems to have had the most dramatic impact on him.

"I think so, but not just tactically," reflected Pellegrino.

"Because for me Rafa was one of the persons who changed a little bit the way that the manager teach the player. Why? Because in my past when I was a player always we were receiving - 'You have to do this, you have to do this, you have to tackle, to defend' but Rafa was different.

"Rafa asked the players how they feel and he changed completely the mentality in my life.

"At a pedagogic level, Rafa was the best in my life.

"In terms of a professional person also, it was for me really nice to work with him as a player and to be his assistant for three years at Liverpool and Inter Milan.

"For me it was like a masters, and allowed me to work with a top squad, be involved, learning. It was a nice moment.

"For me football is like life. To try to learn everyday something better.

"I have to be tomorrow a little bit better than today."

Pellegrino also has a connection with fellow countryman and former Saints boss Mauricio Pochettino.

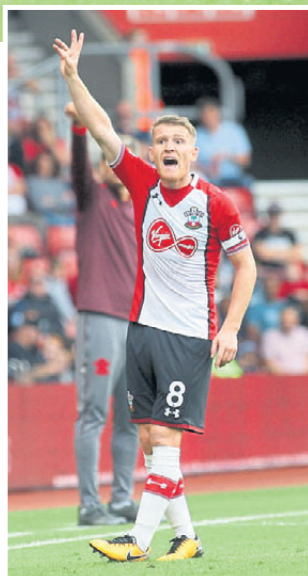


Rafael Benitez

SAINTS

SAINTS 2 SEVILLA 0

Saints finish pre-season with win



Steven Davis appeals for a throw-in

OUCH! Ryan Bertrand and Manolo Gabbiadini get in each other's way.

Adam Leitch



Saints signed off for pre-season with a morale boosting 2-0 win over Sevilla at St Mary's.

Goals in either half from Jack Stephens and Manolo Gabbiadini ensured that Mauricio Pellegrino's side quickly shrugged off the 4-0 midweek loss to Augsburg and built some confidence ahead of the Premier League opener against Swansea next Saturday.

Stephens' heavily deflected opener was also the first Saints goal at St Mary's since April 5, with the team having gone five games without scoring at the end of last season.

Saints started the game positively, and tried to get on the front

foot from the off.

Manolo Gabbiadini was playing through the middle as the lone striker in a 4-2-3-1.

However, the early concern was that Saints looked a little nervy at the back.

Fraser Forster had his first taste of action on five minutes as Luis Muriel was found from the right, but a heavy first touch on the edge of the six yard box gave the keeper the chance to dive on the loose ball.

Muriel was in the thick of the action again seven minutes later as he picked up the ball and ran forward from deep.

He eventually made his way to the edge of the area and took on a shot but it was straight at Forster.

Sevilla were doing a good job at keeping the ball and testing Saints' discipline, but Pel-

legrino's men broke free and worked Sergio Rico for the first time on 20 minutes.

Gabbiadini drilled in a low shot from outside the area that the keeper got down to his left to save.

The Italian almost turned provider moments later as he fizzed a superb low ball across the six yard box which James Ward-Prowse wasn't quite able to reach.

Saints were suddenly on top and Nathan Redmond was the next to work Rico with a shot from 20 yards, forcing the keeper to save at his near post.

The pressure paid off on 26 minutes as Saints converted from the corner.

The goal owed a certain to good fortune as the ball came through to Stephens at the far post and he managed to con-

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SAINTS



vert, albeit via a considerable deflection.

There was a brief moment of panic in the Saints penalty area as a left wing free kick caused a few problems, but the danger was cleared.

Sevilla continued to enjoy prolonged spells of possession for the remainder of the first half, but Saints showed great discipline with their defending.

They were prepared to get everybody behind the ball, drop deep and make themselves very hard to break down.

With Sevilla having so little room in and around the box, they weren't able to pick Saints apart with their intricate passing game.

Sevilla made a raft of half time changes – switching nine of their ten outfield players – as they tried to give their squad game time bearing in mind they were also playing Everton on Sunday.

Saints had a chance to double their lead eight minutes after the restart as Dusan Tadic was brought down just outside the area in a central position as he broke forward, but Gabbiadini drilled the free kick hard and low into the wall.

The ball ricocheted about in the area and came to Stephens, who was stood on his own seven yards from goal and produced a good finish to turn home.

However, after a few moments of deliberation, the linesman raised his flag for offside.

Maya Yoshida needed an extended period of treatment after taking a heavy whack on his left leg. He tried to carry on but eventually signalled to the bench he needed to be replaced with Jan Bednarek coming on for him on 63 minutes.

At the same time Saints brought on young defender Jake Flannigan for Cedric Soares, who got a solid first outing of pre-season under his belt.

Sofiane Boufal was the next to make his entrance, as he came on for Redmond.

All the changes made the second half much more disjointed than the first had been. There was little sense of rhythm to the match due to the disruptions and both sides were struggling to find



Jack Stephens fires Saints in front against Sevilla. All pictures by Stuart Martin.



Manolo Gabbiadini has just put Saints 2-0 ahead.

any real rhythm.

Shane Long was given a chance to impress as he replaced Ward-Prowse on 73 minutes.

In what was the first meaningful effort on goal of the second half, Flannigan worked Rico.

He produced a well-controlled half volley from inside the area that Rico had to parry away.

Saints continued their forward momentum and bagged a second goal eight minutes from time.

It was well worked and a pleas-

ingly slick move.

Tadic played the ball into Steven Davis, whose nice flicked touch found Gabbiadini, and he produced a clinical low finish.

That was the Italian's last action as Sam Gallagher came on to replace him, while Sam McQueen was introduced for Ryan Bertrand.

Saints got another set-piece chance from a free kick in the final minutes of the game.

This time it was from 25 yards out and to the right of centre. Tadic tried to get it up and down but it sailed over the bar.

The Serbian had another sight of goal in stoppage time as Boufal drove a corner to him just inside the area. It was a technically tough chance which Tadic scuffed.

SAINTS: Forster, Cedric, Yoshida, Stephens, Bertrand, Romeu, Davis, Ward-Prowse, Tadic, Gabbiadini, Redmond.

Subs: Taylor, Clasie, Long, Austin, Boufal, Gardos, Gallagher, Targett, Flannigan, Bednarek, McQueen, Højbjerg.

Pellegrino's World Cup Poch link

from facing page

"Yes, we played a World Cup, in 1991, Under-20s. We were a disaster as a team," he recalled.

"We played against Portugal, they had an incredible squad with Luis Figo, Rui Costa. They beat us 3-0.

"We were good as individuals but as a team we couldn't compete in that moment.

"I met Mauricio there. He was one year younger than me, also we were colleagues and we studied together to get the license in Madrid in the federation.

"I was working in Valencia's academy and Mauricio was in Espanyol. He is from Murphy, a small city in Argentina, I am from Leonas. It is not too far, I think 200km."

Pellegrino went on to win three full international caps for his country - all in 1997.

● Burnley's pre-season friendly at home to Hannover on Saturday was abandoned on police advice.

The Premier League club were leading 1-0 at half-time thanks to a goal from Ben Mee when the announcement came.

A short statement on the club's Twitter account read: "Today's game has been abandoned, on police advice."

Photographs showed unrest in the stands, with police holding back Hannover fans from their home counterparts.



Mauricio Pochettino

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NON LEAGUE



Eastleigh start with solid draw on Bromley's 3G surface



Reda Johnson

Bromley 0 Eastleigh 0
EASTLEIGH'S run of opening day wins in the Vanarama National League came to an end at Bromley. But the Spitfires, who had beaten Nuneaton, Southport and Guiseley in previous years, will not be too downhearted with a solid 0-0 away draw on the 3G surface at Hayes Lane.

Boss Richard Hill handed a competitive starting debut to six of his summer signings – Andrew Boyce, Danny Hollands, Sam Wood, Mark Yeates, Ben Williamson and Paul McCallum. Another, Chris Zebroski, was named on the bench after several days out with a groin strain.

The Spitfires dominated early on, making themselves well at home on Bromley's newly-installed artificial surface, with Williamson, McCallum and ex-Sheffield United wide man Yeates showing up well in attack.

A couple of early flashpoints – notably Frankie Raymond's rash challenge on Wood – prompted ref Christopher Pollard to have a calming word with both skippers, but Eastleigh posed the bigger threat by far. Two early balls over the top put Bromley on the back

foot and Yeates sent an ambitious volley over with four minutes gone.

Eastleigh almost got the breakthrough on 21 minutes when, following a short corner, a header from defensive titan Reda Johnson struck the top of the crossbar.

With Graham Stack untroubled in the Spitfires goal, Eastleigh threatened again with some neat, one-touch football five minutes later. But having manoeuvred himself into a great position, Yeates had his shot blocked by Tyrone Sterling and skipper Sam Togwell – solid in midfield alongside Hollands – blasted the loose ball over.

The Ravens were bound to improve, having barely threatened first half – and Eastleigh survived a major scare on 52 minutes.

Ben Wynter's cross picked out Louis Dennis on the edge of the six-yard box and his downward header hit the ground and bounced over.

Dennis made a pest of himself again four minutes later, but his cross-cum-shot was wide.

After Johnson had been booked for a challenge on

ex-Eastleigh frontman Brett Williams, Hill made his first roll of the dice, replacing Williamson with Zebroski up top.

Another soon followed when McCallum made way for evergreen 37-year-old Craig McAllister.

Bromley responded by throwing on Iffy Allen, signed from Wrexham, and the winger played in Williams whose effort was blocked behind for a corner off man mountain Johnson.

Eastleigh's final sub Ross Stearn, on for Yeates, also made a rapid impact, whipping in a corner from which Zebroski headed wide.

Sutton, Eastleigh's visitors this Tuesday (7.45pm), beat Leyton Orient – newly relegated from the Football League – 2-0 with goals from ex-Spitfires Jamie Collins (penalty) and Dean Beckwith.

Eastleigh: Graham Stack, Gavin Hoyte, Michael Green, Sam Togwell (captain), Reda Johnson, Andrew Boyce, Sam Wood, Danny Hollands, Paul McCallum (Craig McAllister, 75) Ben Williamson (Chris Zebroski, 67), Mark Yeates (Ross Stearn, 83). Att: 1,228 (121 Eastleigh)

Anyone fancy a 99?

CRICKET: Wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow became the 15th England player to be dismissed for 99 at Old Trafford on Saturday.

The Yorkshireman batted brilliantly with the tail in the final Test against South Africa, but had to walk one short of a hundred when he was LBW to Keshav Maharaj.

Here is the list of the others to fall on 99.

1. Herbert Sutcliffe, v South Africa at Cape Town, 1927
2. Eddie Paynter, v Australia at Lord's, 1938
3. N. Yardley, v South Africa at Nottingham, 1947
4. Mike Smith, v South Africa at Lord's, 1960
5. Mike Smith, v Pakistan at Lahore, 1961
6. Ted Dexter, v Australia at Brisbane, 1962
7. Dennis Amiss, v Pakistan at Karachi, 1973
8. Geoffrey Boycott v West Indies at Port of Spain, 1974
9. Graham Gooch, v Australia at Melbourne, 1980
10. Martin Moxon, v New Zealand at Auckland, 1988
11. Mike Atherton, v Australia at Lord's, 1993
12. Mike Atherton, v South Africa at Headingley, 1994
13. Marcus Trescothick, v India at Ahmedabad, 2001
14. Kevin Pietersen, v Bangladesh at Chittagong, 2010
15. Jonny Bairstow, v South Africa at Old Trafford, 2017

No love lost as Town dump Sholing out

Wendy Gee



THERE was no love lost at the Universal Stadium on Friday night as Alresford Town continued a magnificent opening to the new season by dumping Sholing out of the FA Cup.

A tetchy extra preliminary round tie boiled over in the 65th minute when, in trying to reach an under-hit pass, Sholing midfielder Alex Sawyer lunged in two-footed on Alresford's Sam Burt.

Sawyer was shown a straight red card and Magpies' defender Lukas McCartney also got his marching orders amid the scuffle that ensued.

Burt, who was taken to hospital by ambulance, was left with swelling on both knees and some damage to the ligaments, but manager Richard Luffman is hopeful he will be back in action within a month.

Watched by a sizeable crowd of 302, the drama started early when Lee Wort was tackled from behind nine minutes in and the referee pointed to the spot.

Alresford were adamant it had been a timely tackle by McCartney, not a foul, and felt justice was



Lee Wort is tackled against Alresford. Picture by Ray Routledge

done when 'keeper Dan Kempson smartly saved Dan Mason's spot kick.

The Magpies edged in front on

the half-hour when Steve Hall took advantage of some hesitant Boatmen's defending and fired across Ryan Gosney into the far

corner.

That lead was doubled on 49 minutes when Tom Sands cut in from the left wing and, with Gosney seemingly wrong-footed, jubilantly watched his shot roll inside the post.

After the double sending-off, tempers remained on a knife-edge with Sholing's Jamie Bulpitt then pulled away from a melee.

The edginess seemed to affect Sholing's game more than Alresford's and it took the Boatmen until the 73rd minute to force Kempson into a save from open play when he tipped Wort's venomous strike over the bar.

Sholing finally made a breakthrough in the third minute of added time when Micky Hubbard's free-kick flicked in off Mason, but it was too little too late for the home side.

Coming hot on the heels of Tuesday's 1-0 Sydenhams Premier win at AFC Portchester, it's been a dream start to 2017/18 for Alresford.

"We couldn't have asked for a better week," smiled Luffman. "Sholing have ruled the roost round here for quite a few years and I think we got under their skin a bit."

Alresford now host the winners of the Thatcham Town v Petersfield Town tie on August 19.

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NON LEAGUE

Great night for Purples

Mims Davies, MP for Eastleigh, officially unveiled AFC Stoneham's brand new floodlights this week ahead of the friendly match against Eastleigh.

The upgrade was made thanks to a grant of £28,323 from the Premier League, through the Football Stadium Improvement Fund, the largest funders of non-league football in the country.

The funding has helped the Sydenhams Wessex League second tier club - nicknamed the Purples - to install new floodlights, enabling them to meet the ground requirements for the league ahead of the new season.

Stoneham hope the new upgrade will enable them to deliver top quality training and pitch facilities throughout the year for the club's 30 teams - from age four right through to adults, including ladies team.

Funded with £6.5m each year from the Premier League, the FSIF is the country's largest provider of grants towards projects that help improve the comfort and safety of lower league football grounds in both the professional and amateur game.

These improvements range from new football stands and turnstiles to floodlighting and improved provision for disabled supporters.

Mims Davies said: "This is a much-needed upgrade for the club and I'd like to thank them for inviting me to see the effect of the floodlights in action."

"It is vital for clubs at the lower levels to have the best infrastructure in place. It is important that we give football clubs the best facilities possible because they can benefit so many people. This particular project is an excellent example of the work by



Above right, from left - Eastleigh CEO Mark Jewell, Mims Davies MP, Stoneham chairman Mark Stupple and Hampshire FA CEO Neil Cassar. Below - the same quartet are joined by Stoneham's junior footballers.



Eastleigh keeper Graham Stack with Stoneham's under-9 side.

the Premier League which is delivered by the Football Stadium Improvement Fund.

There is a strong community spirit at the club which is catering for a huge number of youngsters from across the area which couldn't happen without the amazing volunteers who are committed to supporting grassroots football."

Mark Stupple, Chairman of

AFC Stoneham, added "The whole night allowed our invited guests, supporters and the people of Eastleigh to see how our community club is developing and growing all the time. It really was a fantastic night."

AFC Stoneham took the lead during the first half through a Matthew Palmer free kick only to be behind at the break with Craig McAllister and Paul Reid replying for the Spitfires.

First team manager, Tim Cole, said: "We felt we gave a good account of ourselves against a strong Eastleigh side in front of a good sized crowd."

"We are all very grateful to Richard Hill for bringing his full first team squad along and, as always, they were a great credit to both Eastleigh FC and local football. I hope AFC Stoneham were as well."



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Young Stoneham players form a guard of honour to welcome the players onto the pitch.

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Bonatini's debut goal

Leo Bonatini scored on his Sky Bet Championship debut as big-spending Wolves beat relegated Middlesbrough 1-0 at Molineux.

The Brazilian striker, signed on a season-long loan from Saudi Arabian club Al Hilal, capitalised on a defensive mistake from Daniel Ayala to net the only goal on 33 minutes.

Former Porto midfielder Ruben Neves - who reportedly cost Wolves £15million this summer - also impressed on his first appearance as Boro failed to find a way back into the game.

Bobby Reid netted a brace and Famara Diedhiou scored on his first appearance as Bristol City beat Barnsley 3-1 at Ashton Gate.

Reid put the hosts ahead after 16 minutes before setting up Senegal striker Diedhiou, a club-record £5.3million signing from Angers, who headed home at the back post.

City midfielder Reid then added his second of the day from close range on the half-hour mark as the Robins ran riot in the first period.

Ryan Hedges pulled a goal back for Barnsley in added time but it was not enough to deny Bristol City boss Lee Johnson victory against his former club.

Former Saints striker Billy Sharp picked up where he left off



Billy Sharp

last season by scoring the only goal in Sheffield United's 1-0 win over Brentford at Bramall Lane.

The striker netted 30 goals in League One last term and took just 39 minutes to open his account for the new campaign - the Blades' first in the second tier for seven years.

Joe Garner also got off to the perfect start by scoring on his Ipswich debut in the 1-0 victory at home against Birmingham.

The former Rangers striker completed a counter-attack five minutes after half-time to seal three points at Portman Road.

Conor Washington fared even better as he scored twice in QPR's 2-0 win over 10-man Reading at Loftus Road. The ex-Peterborough forward headed the hosts into the lead on 22 minutes and converted a penalty on the hour mark after Royals defender Tiago Ilori was sent off.

Daniel Johnson's second-half penalty helped Preston to a 1-0 victory at home to Sheffield Wednesday while Kenneth Zohore netted a late winner in Cardiff's 1-0 triumph at Burton.

Fulham were the beneficiaries of a 25th-minute Russell Martin own goal but Nelson Oliveira stepped off the bench to earn a 1-1 draw for Norwich.

NON LEAGUE



Zach Glasspool

Baptism of fire for new boss Rae

RAE Hughes's first game in charge of Bemerton Heath Harlequins was one to forget.

After holding their own in the first half at Andover Town, the hapless Harlequins were completely overrun after the break as Glenn Burnett's side emerged handsome 6-1 winners in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Hughes felt the outcome could have been very different had his side taken their first-half chances.

Lloyd Thomas in the Andover goal was in fine form, denying Russell Jones from point-blank range on three separate occasions.

Speaking after the game, Hughes said: "Andover were clinical in both boxes all night.

"First half they had two chances and scored both. We had five and scored one.

"At this level that just isn't good enough.

"The second half was disappointing. We stopped creating and gave the ball away far too easily.

"Andover are a good team with some top players for this level.

"We must learn and move on quickly."

Jones did score once, but it was washed away by two from Andover's Zach Glasspool and one apiece from Reece Rusher, Mike Gosney, Luke Dempsey and Jason Silver.

Sholing are 'nailed on' to win Wessex

Wendy Gee



BEN Kneller says he doesn't always see eye to eye with Alresford Town boss Richard Luffman - but they are strongly united on one thing.

Kneller, manager of Sydenhams Premier newcomers Hamble Club, wholeheartedly agrees with Luffman that Sholing are red-hot favourites to win the league.

Having aspired to play alongside their illustrious neighbours, the Boatmen, in the Wessex top-flight, Hamble have quickly achieved their goal, promoted as champions of Sydenhams One at the first time of asking.

But while the two sides now inhabit the same division, Kneller reckons Dave Diaper's Sholing are "in a league of their own."

"For me, they're nailed on to win it," he said.

"Just look at the players they've got.

"They've got a Southern League goalkeeper in Ryan Gosney, their right-back TJ Cuthbertson's played in the Conference South, Marvin McLean's the best left-back in the league and defender Dan Miller has had a lot of interest from other clubs.

Powerful

"They've got a really strong side all round with lads like Byron Mason, Micky Hubbard and Jamie Bulpitt in midfield and Dan Mason and Lee Wort up front.

"They're strong, powerful, they've got goals in them and they don't concede many either.

"I don't always agree with Rich (Luffman), but when he said Sholing were favourites to win the league, I couldn't argue.



Sholing celebrate winning the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup last season.

"They've got a great group of lads there and Dave (Diaper) has done a fantastic job at Sholing.

"They wouldn't be where they are without him.

"It's the same here at Hamble. We wouldn't be where we are without Mike Clarke (chairman) and Scott Marchant (former manager, now vice-chairman)."

While Kneller can't see past Sholing for the title, he expects the usual suspects - and, hopefully, Hamble Club - to throw some obstacles in their path.

"Rich Luffman has made it ap-

parent that they (Alresford) want to have a go at it, Blackfield will always be up there and Sus (Ian Saunders) at Portchester knows how to win this league," he said.

"We've got guys in our squad who have won it too with Winchester City and Blackfield, so I'd like to think we can finish top-half and maybe squeeze into the top eight.

"Getting into the Premier Division is another milestone for us and we're all excited for it.

"We're trying to put down a footprint here for the club to be stable

going forward."

There will be some friendly family rivalry between Sholing and Hamble with defender Pete Castle now part of the Boatmen's backroom staff while his brother Chris is Kneller's new right-hand man at 'The Abbey'.

"Chris is a lovely lad - and good luck to Hamble in the Wessex Premier," said Sholing boss Diaper.

"It'll be interesting to see how they get on.

"It's great to have another club coming through from this area."

NON LEAGUE



It's Ben 10 at Eastleigh!



Ben Williamson

EASTLEIGH'S summer signing spree hit double figures this week with the capture of experienced ex-AFC Bournemouth, Port Vale and Gillingham centre-forward Ben Williamson.

The 28-year-old arrives at the Silverlake having been released from League Two side Cambridge United.

"I'm delighted to secure the services of Ben, especially with a list of National League teams after him," said Spitfires boss Richard Hill.

"Ben could be anything. He's different to what we've got. He runs in behind.

"He should have scored far more goals than he has done in his career, but we're hopeful he can get himself in a purple patch.

"We've got good competition up front now with Paul McCallum, Chris Zebroski, Craig McAllister and Williamson - plus James Constable who I believe has something to offer playing from a bit deeper, but we've still got him as a forward if we need him."

After youth spells with Millwall and Croydon Athletic, Lambeth-born Williamson kicked off his senior career on the south coast at Worthing before linking up with Glenn Hoddle at his

Williamson is 'different to what we have'

Wendy Gee



academy in Spain. He played for partner club Jerez Industrial, netting eight times in 12 games.

He joined the then League One Cherries in 2011, going on as a sub for Danny Ings in their play-off semi-final against Huddersfield Town.

Williamson banged in 12 goals for Cambridge the season before last following his arrival from Gillingham in 2015.

Last term he found the target just once in a 4-2 FA Cup replay win at Dover.

At the time of signing Williamson,

Cambridge boss Shaun Derry said: "In terms of the attributes he brings, he adds a bit of everything.

"Ben certainly possesses a great deal of pace and he has the ability to change the whole complexity of a football game.

"His ability is unquestioned and he has proved that at League One level, but it's his character that attracts us to Ben most."

Derry later expanded: "Ben's a great guy - his application, enthusiasm for training, his workrate that he manages to produce not just on a matchday, but on training days as well. He has the respect of the whole football club for that."

Williamson's Eastleigh arrival was confirmed after he had featured for the Spitfires in Tuesday's 2-1 friendly win at AFC Stoneham.

He has now linked up with the squad on a permanent basis and been handed the No25 shirt.

It makes him Eastleigh's tenth arrival of the summer, joining Paul McCallum, Danny Hollands, Ross Flitney, Chris Zebroski, Mark Yeates, Sam Wood, Andrew Boyce, Harvey Read and Cavaghn Miley.

City boast classic 'little and large' duo after Cox signs on

PAT Cox and Ollie Bailey have the potential to replicate one of Winchester City's most celebrated strike partnerships.

Player-boss Craig Davis hopes they will thrive together just like Zach Glasspool and Warren Bentley.

Davis, who made powerful forward Cox his latest signing this week, reckons the big man will complement the smaller, zippy Bailey well.

"Pat and Olly are the classic little and large," he said. "Ollie's got pace and has been excellent pre-season."

"Pat's a big physical presence, strong in the air and a natural goalscorer.

"When we went to Moneyfields for a friendly the other night, they had Steve Hutchings up front who's a big unit - and Pat's in the same mould. He's not a very nice person to play against!

"He's one of those that you don't like playing against but you love him if he's on your team."

Cox, who finished last season at Farnborough, put pen to paper for Davis's Evo-Stik South West squad this week after protracted negotiations.

"It's taken a while, but we've got him!" smiled Davis, who has been both manager and teammate to the 27-year-old striker over the years.

"Pat's probably not overly known in this area because he's plied his trade mainly in the Ryman Premier with Hayes & Yeading and Staines," said Davis.

"But he's also been with Salisbury and Gosport and he was with me on and off at Fleet.

"I'm really good friends with him and he's a big signing for us.

"He didn't have to come here. Farnborough wanted to keep him and there were other sides - Kingstonian, Hayes & Yeading etc. - who were keen to get him, but he decided to come to us.

"People say he's had a lot of clubs, but he's always been excellent for me. Everywhere I've been, Pat's seemed to follow soon after."

Due to a gentlemen's agreement with Farnborough boss Spencer Day, Cox was unable to feature against his old club when the sides meet in a pre-season friendly at Winchester's Simplyhealth City Ground today



Pat Cox signs for City.

(Saturday).

"It's a shame, but I've got a lot of respect for Spencer and I'm not going to rock the boat," said Davis.

Happy to be reunited with Davis at Winchester, Cox tweeted: "I've been managed by some top coaches - i.e. Phil Babb and Nicky Forster - but to be playing under Craig Davis again is perfect!"

Winchester's director of football Dave Malone said:

"This is an important signing for the club. Hopefully Coxy will bang in some goals in the season ahead."

City kick off the new league campaign at Shortwood United next Saturday (August 12).

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NON LEAGUE



Claridge holds his hands up

STEVE Claridge admits a new Salisbury formation didn't work in last weekend's 3-1 friendly defeat against Weston-super-Mare.

The Whites struggled in the first half playing 4-4-1-1, featuring Marvin Brooks up top, Kane O'Keefe just behind and Chris Shephard on the left.

Admitting it was the wrong system, Claridge said: "I wasn't sure if it would work or not - and it didn't. I will hold my hands up and say that."

"But it was a team that I wanted to have a look at. That's what these games are about."

The Whites boss tinkered with a different formation because he feels his side will not be able to play football on the ground when they go to Mangotsfield United next Saturday in their Evo-Stik South West opener.

"With that in mind, I was looking at getting the big lads in the team,"



Steve Claridge

he explained. "There are a few players who are not quite sure of each other's games yet, so they are learning. Hopefully players will understand each other's games better as we go forward."

Despite a fragmented pre-season with players away on holiday, Claridge is happy with his squad.

"We've got about 17 squad members and we are around where we want to be financially," he said. "Anybody who comes in now will need to be better than we've got."

"It's not just a case of signing players, it's making sure we sign the right ones."

National League South visitors Weston inflicted all the damage in the first half as Jarrad Welch, Ashley Harper and Dayle Grubb plunged the Whites into 3-0 arrears.

Salisbury reduced the deficit with a second-half goal from ex-Poole Town man Brooks.

Ex-Hawk Swallow flying down the coast ...

FORMER Havant & Waterlooville wideman Ben Swallow has winged his way to Bognor Regis Town.

The experienced left-sided player has penned a one-year deal for the Rocks.

Formerly with Cardiff City and Bristol Rovers, fans' favourite Swallow, 27,

left the Hawks after three years this summer because he wanted regular first-team football. Havant and Bognor were promoted hand in hand from the Isthmian Premier Division last season having finished first and second respectively.

The Rocks, who won the play-offs, have also signed 19-year-old right-back Calvin Davies in readiness for National League South football.

Davies spent much of last season on loan at Bognor and was released by parent club Portsmouth in the summer.

Diaper: We're not flushed with cash

Wendy Gee



DAVE Diaper has no problem with Sholing being touted as favourites for the Sydenhams Premier Division title.

But he was swift to point out that the Boatmen won't be throwing money around like confetti after landing a £100,000 super grant from FA sponsors Budweiser in May.

Sholing couldn't splash the cash on players even if they wanted to because the grant must be used purely for upgrading their Universal Stadium home.

"We haven't actually got the money. We don't receive anything physically," stressed Diaper.

"The cheque is paid to the FA and the money can only be spent on ground improvements - no other way."

"We're in discussions at the moment and we've got two or three options of how the money will go towards the redevelopment of Sholing FC, but no way does it touch our bank account at all."

"I've had friends telling me Sholing will do well this season because we've got a good budget, but it doesn't work like that."

"The grant is for ground improvements and ground improvements only - and that's the way it should be."

Sholing, though, have still managed to assemble a squad that is the envy of many a Wessex club.

Three years of shrewd rebuilding work came to fruition last season as the Boatmen pulled off a glittering trophy double.

With the Sydenhams League Cup safely stashed away, they lifted the Southampton Senior Cup at St Mary's two days later.

"I read what Rich Luffman at Alresford said about us underachieving (regarding Sholing finishing third in the league). Is that what you call winning two cups?" smiled Diaper.



Sholing boss Dave Diaper. Pic by Ray Routledge.

Luffman is also convinced the Boatmen are nailed-on for this season's title and Diaper - 18 years Sholing's manager - agrees they're in with a chance.

"We've got to be classed as one of the favourites mainly because the majority of our players have been with us for such a long time and we've proved ourselves by finishing runners-up and third in the last two years," he said.

"A lot of clubs are improving and getting closer, but I'm lucky enough that we've now got the biggest squad we've had in the

last five years."

"But a big squad takes money and we need more investment for that to be sustainable."

"We're approaching sponsors all the time and that's another reason I have to get it out there that the Budweiser grant money won't be hitting our bank account."

"The last thing we want is for potential sponsors to think we don't need them because we've got money coming to us."

The FA states: "The Budweiser Club Futures programme is a

grant scheme for non-League clubs in steps 5-7 of the English football pyramid."

"Those grants aim to help clubs to become more financially sustainable by improving their facilities."

"Projects that could be funded by the grants include everything from building conference facilities, improving any part of the clubhouse interior or exterior, and expanding the car park. Anything that helps a club grow and play an even larger role in their local community."

NON LEAGUE



FC Augsburg's signed shirt.

Sholing's special German guests

SHOLING have welcomed some special guests to their Universal Stadium home this week.

FC Augsburg used the Boatmen's Portsmouth Road base for training prior to their pre-season friendly at Saints on Wednesday.

Being based just a couple

of miles down the road from St Mary's can have its upsides and Sholing boss Dave Diaper was delighted to be of assistance to the German Bundesliga outfit.

"They came training at our ground, then they went out for a day's sightseeing and came back to us on Tuesday.

"It was interesting to watch their training sessions, quite educational," he said.

"It was great to have them here. It all adds to the club's profile."

Augsburg even left Sholing something to remember them by - a signed shirt to thank them for their hospitality.

Connor gets off to a Boatman flier

Wendy Gee



LIFE doesn't get much sweeter for a striker than scoring on your debut.

No wonder Connor Kelly was smiling on Tuesday as he set the seal on Sholing's 2-0 opening night victory at Cowes Sports.

Kelly is no stranger to scoring goals on the Isle of Wight, having signed for Sholing from Cowes' neighbours Newport IW in mid-May.

His magic midweek moment came when Sholing - already leading by a Lee Wort header - had Dan Mason hauled down just outside the box.

Kelly stepped up to take the free-kick and his well-struck effort clipped the end of Cowes' defensive wall and squeezed inside far post for what he hopes will be the first of many Sholing goals.

Compared to some of their Sydenhams Premier rivals, there has been precious little movement in and out of Sholing this summer.

Home-grown striker Nick Yeomans has joined Sydenhams One outfit Whitchurch United, while Kelly is the Boatmen's sole new face.

Versatile

That said, having the versatile Jack Smith back after almost a year out injured is as good as a new signing - if not two!

"Jack's a manager's dream," smiled team boss Dave Diaper.

"Centre-back, left-back, central midfield...he plays anywhere.

"Jack's been out with a very bad ankle injury but he came back and played against Fawley pre-season and was outstanding.

"It will take him a while to get full match sharpness, but for a



Connor Kelly with TJ Cuthbertson in the background (photo: Keith Legg).

guy who has been out for a year to come back and have two or three training sessions and pick up where he left off is admirable.

"Everyone has re-signed and getting Connor (Kelly) in was just enough to freshen things up without having to change our system or the way we play."

Diaper had expected TJ Cuthbertson to move on in the summer having stamped his class on the National League South for Gosport Borough.

Gosport's well-publicised financial problems saw him leave Privett Park in January and rejoin Sholing on a deal until the end of last season.

An outstanding performance in the Southampton Senior Cup final at St Mary's had Diaper more convinced than ever that the right-back would be moving onwards and upwards this summer, but Cuthbertson remains a Boatman.

Indeed it was from his overlap-

ping run and peach of a cross that Wort opened the scoring at Cowes with 44 minutes gone.

"Give TJ his due, he's an excellent player and a good lad and he wants to repay the club for the loyalty we've shown him - and you don't get many say that," said the boss. "It's about enjoyment of football too. Like I've always said, it's very difficult for players to leave this club because they love it here. We must be doing something right...!"

Lack of support for 50-year Tyro event

THIS month's celebration tournament to mark 50 years of the Southampton & District Tyro League has been postponed - due to lack of support.

The esteemed youth league that produced such talent as Andrew Surman, Danny Ings and Francis Benali comprises 52 clubs.

Yet only six stepped forward to take part in a festival of under-11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 football over the weekends of August 5/6 and 12/13 at Testlands Hub.

It was one of a series of events planned to mark the league's 50th anniversary with all proceeds going to Francis Benali's fundraising for Cancer Research UK.



Tyro League action

The lack of interest has shocked Tyro stalwart Tony Witt, life vice-president of the league.

Together with Dave Jackson, Ron Foreman, Clive Risbridger, Kay Risbridger and Dave Chalke - all 60-plus - Witt formed the 50th Anniversary Committee to devise different ways to celebrate Tyro football's half century.

He said: "Unfortunately we've had to postpone the tournament due to lack of support.

"As a committee, we're quite disgusted about that, but perhaps August was the wrong month with the kids on school holidays."

Witt, though, says the committee will not be beaten and are determined the tournament will go ahead at a later date.

"We've spoken to the Tyro League and we're going to try and organise it in May," he said.

NON LEAGUE



Boreham Wood tick the boxes for Turley

FORMER Eastleigh defender Jamie Turley could be lining up against the Spitfires this season.

The 27-year-old centre-back has joined National League outfit Boreham Wood on a season-long loan from Newport County.

A Newport statement said: "Jamie, who last season struggled with injury, has worked hard to regain his fitness and has recently featured in several of the club's pre-season matches.

"The club would like to wish Jamie and Boreham Wood FC all the best for the 2017/18 season."

Turley, who left Eastleigh to sign a two-year deal for League Two Newport in May last year, has not played competitively since mid-September after undergoing knee surgery.

He said: "Boreham Wood are an ambitious club with an ambitious manager and it ticked a lot of boxes for me.

"I can bring pace and power to



Jamie Turley

the side and I know the league very well."

Reading-born Turley made more than 40 appearances for Eastleigh in 2015/16, playing a part in their run to the third round of the FA Cup, where they were beaten by Bolton.

He began his career at Wycombe, before spells with Salisbury City and Forest Green. The defender also captained England C to the semi-finals of the International Challenge Trophy in 2013.

● THE BBC will broadcast one game from each qualifying round of the Emirates FA Cup this season, starting with a Merseyside derby this weekend.

Match of the Day commentator Conor McNamara and former Manchester United striker Danny Webber were due to be at Litherland REMYCA v AFC Liverpool today.

It's the first time qualifying round fixtures have been shown live on the BBC since the FA Cup returned to the corporation in 2014.

Steve Rudge, BBC Sport's head of football, said "We are delighted that audiences will be able to share in the passion of the FA Cup from the opening stage for the very first time."

Match coverage will be available across the BBC's digital platforms and can be viewed live or on-demand via the BBC iPlayer.

Miley's an old head on young shoulders



Cavaghn Miley

EASTLEIGH'S latest signing Cavaghn Miley has an old head on young shoulders.

At 21 years of age, the midfielder this year became one of Jersey's youngest skippers of recent times.

Miley was recommended to Spitfires' chief Richard Hill by former Aston Villa boss Brian Little who knows the youngster from his time managing Jersey's representative side.

Hill, who once assisted Little at Villa, said: "Cav was recommended to me from a good friend and someone whose judgement I trust.

"It's a similar case to when we

signed (ex-Saints and Stoke City defender) Harvey Read last week. There was a list of clubs looking at him.

"Cav has been on trial at a League club and they came close to agreeing something."

The retirement of Luke Watson from representative football created an opening for a new Jersey captain and Martin Cassidy, current boss of the Islanders, had no hesitation handing the armband to the midfielder who joins Eastleigh from Jersey Premiership champions St Paul's.

"He's a top young player, he can handle it," Cassidy said. "I don't

think it puts any pressure on his performance and it will give him leadership qualities on the pitch."

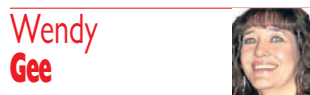
Miley said: "It's a huge honour to be a captain of the Jersey team but, if I'm honest, I just try being myself and do what I do every week."

Miley made his debut for Eastleigh in Tuesday's 2-1 pre-season friendly win at AFC Stoneham.

Having fallen behind to their Sydenhams One neighbours, the Spitfires hit back through Craig McAllister and Paul Reid.

McAllister slotted home Ben Strevens' cross and Ross Stearn teed up Reid's powerful header.

Eastleigh's farewell to 'Mr Unflappable'



NATIONAL League outfit Eastleigh have confirmed the departure of long-serving club secretary Ray Murphy.

Murphy, recognised as one of the most hard-working, efficient and dedicated club administrators in local non-League, is moving up a division into the Football League.

He is joining League Two outfit Swindon Town where he will head up the secretarial role.

"We would like to thank Ray for his efforts whilst at the club and wish him well for the future," said an Eastleigh statement.

Murphy, who includes Bashley and Winchester City among his former clubs, co-wrote a recently published book about the Spitfires, entitled "The Story So Far."

Along with fellow author Gary Day, he chronicled every season in the club's history from 1946-2017.

The launch of the book coincided with a successful club reunion in May that brought back around 150 Eastleigh old boys to Stoneham Lane.

Murphy was also instrumental in bringing the increasingly popular over-50s walking football under the club umbrella.

Club founder and life president Derik Brooks, who wrote the foreword to "The Story So Far", recalled: "I first met Ray on a September evening in 1996 at Bashley FC's ground in the New Forest.



Ray Murphy (right) pictured with Matt Le Tissier and walking football skipper Paul Fruin.

The match was a rearranged Wessex League Combination Division fixture between Bashley Reserves and Eastleigh Reserves.

"During the first half, Ray politely introduced himself and then indicated that he, as secretary of Bashley FC, would have to report Eastleigh for playing an

ineligible player.

"I made no comment at the time, preferring to check my records at home. However, during the second half, Ray again approached me (I muttered to myself – now what does he want!) and Ray then apologised as he was incorrect.

"To me, that indicated his char-

acter.

"After this encounter our paths crossed from time to time until 2005 when Ray joined Eastleigh FC as secretary.

"He radiates calm and professionalism as club secretary, followed by his dry sense of humour. Mr Unflappable!"



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NON LEAGUE



Samuels is determined to improve at Romsey

ROMSEY Town boss Andy Samuels is determined to improve on last season's mid-table finish in Sydenhams One.

He is aiming to mould his Bypass boys into a much more competitive unit this time round.

Samuels, who led his side to a 13th-placed finish in 2016/17, said: "I know, and the players still here from last season certainly know, that we under-performed with the quality in the squad we had."

"We've worked hard on recruiting the right type of player in terms of quality, but also in terms of commitment and attitude."

At their best, Romsey were a force to be reckoned with last term and inflicted one of just five league defeats suffered by runaway champions Hamble Club.

"When I had my strongest team available last season we were a match for anyone - and our results against the top sides proved that," Samuels pointed out.



Andy Samuels

"But not having a consistency of squad selection meant I had to chop and change personnel, formations and tactics, and that caused the inconsistency in our performances and results."

"We want to be challenging for promotion this season and I believe we have a squad capable of doing that."

"But talk is cheap - putting our plans into action and performing on the field is ultimately where we'll be judged."

Romsey were due to open their league campaign at home to Hythe & Dibden today (Saturday) and Samuels was hoping for a good crowd at the Bypass Ground.

"Our support was excellent last year," he said.

"Crowd numbers were again up on the previous season, so we hope this year to give the fans something to really cheer about."

"They were terrific both home and away last season."

Following the loss of goalkeeper Matty Taylor to Premier Division outfit Brockenhurst, Hythe & Dibden have signed young former AFC Totton and Totton & Eling stopper Matt Fredericks.

Winchester v AFC Totton in BigFreeBet Cup



Winchester's Andy Jenkinson in action against AFC Totton.

WINCHESTER City have been drawn at home to AFC Totton in the first round of the newly-named BigFreeBet.com Challenge Cup.

The tie will take place at the Simplyhealth City Ground in the week commencing October 2.

When the sides met in the Southern League knockout competition last season, it was Winchester who came out on top, triumphing 3-2 at Totton's Testwood Stadium.

The match was decided by a late Sam Wilson penalty after Totton had clawed back to 2-2 from 2-0 down.

Andy Jenkinson scored City's other two goals that night, while Nick Watts and Mike Gosney found the net for Totton.

Winchester went on to lose 2-0

in the second round at Salisbury, who bowed out 4-0 to eventual cup winners Hayes & Yeading United in the semi-finals.

Salisbury must travel to Dorchester Town in this season's first round, while Gosport Borough face a tasty home fixture against Southern League new boys Moneyfields.

BigFreeBet.com Challenge Cup draw -

Preliminary round (to be played week commencing September 4): Northwood v Egham Town.

First round: (to be played week commencing October 2): AFC Dunstable v Dunstable Town, AFC Rushden & Diamonds v St Neots Town, Arlesey Town v Biggleswade Town, Barnstaple

Town v Tiverton Town, Barton Rovers v Royston Town, Beaconsfield Town v Slough Town, Bedford Town v Kettering Town, Bideford v Taunton Town, Cambridge City v St Ives Town, Chalfont St Peter v Northwood/Egham Town, Chesham Utd v Aylesbury, Cinderford Town v Slimbridge, Cirencester Town v Larkhall Athletic, Didcot Town v Banbury United, Dorchester Town v Salisbury, Evesham Utd v Stratford Town, Farnborough v Hartley Wintney, Fleet Town v Basingstoke Town, Gosport Borough v Moneyfields, Hanwell Town v Uxbridge, Hayes & Yeading v Ashford Town (Middx), Hitchin Town v Bishop's Cleeve, Kempston Rovers v King's Lynn Town, Kidlington v Swindon Supermarine, Marlow v Aylesbury Utd, Paulton Rovers v Frome Town, Redditch Utd v Bishops Cleeve, Shortwood Utd v Merthyr Town, Thame Utd v Kings Langley, Weymouth v Wimborne Town, Winchester City v AFC Totton, Yate Town v Bristol Manor Farm.

Fawley's switch-on delayed by a

FAWLEY AFC's Sydenhams One opener against Totton & Eling has been moved back a week to this Tuesday (August 8, 7.45pm).

The Oilers' LB Roofing Arena home has successfully undergone much maintenance work during the summer, but the floodlights have taken a bit longer than expected to service.

A club statement explained: "It's fair to say that our floodlights have been the trickiest and most expensive of our off-field upgrades."

"The bulbs/starters are difficult to source and the lights are also extremely high (60 feet!) which means a simple cherry picker won't reach the required heights to make any floodlight alterations."

"Despite this, with all hands on deck, many of the players and committee rallied to try and hire a JLG and make the necessary amendments, including the replacing of bulbs and also the cleaning of the existing ones."

"However, we haven't found a company that would be able to complete the necessary grid testing in time for the first game of the season, so the Wessex League have kindly given us a weeks grace to make the necessary improvements."

"Needless to say some people have put a ridiculous amount of their own time and money into trying to make this happen but, unfortunately, we were beaten by the clock."

"Massive thanks to everyone



Fawley AFC's LB Roofing Arena home (photo: Fawley AFC).

still currently working on this - a great team effort!"

"Although it's disappointing to delay our first Wessex League encounter with Totton & Eling, I think it's fair to say we've come a long way considering the seem-

ingly never ending list of off-field jobs!"

"We're still incredibly proud of what has been achieved off the field in the football section and our increased partnership working with the other sports sections,

so onwards and upwards!"

Wednesday's postponement meant Fawley were due to kick off their season in the FA Cup extra preliminary round at Farnham Town today.

NON LEAGUE



How golf took a back seat for Will

PAUL Aimson spent 13 years of his life scoring goals.

Naturally, the former Cherries centre-forward, who retired at Colchester 43 years ago, wanted grandson Will to follow suit.

But sometimes you just have to listen to your old man.

Consequently, when Will's dad Gary decided his son would do well to knock his striking ambitions on the head and play at centre-half – well, that is what happened.

And it has worked out alright.

Reared in Christchurch, where the family settled after Paul moved to Dean Court from York City in 1973, Will is a Wembley winner; a member of the Blackpool team that overcame Exeter City 2-1 in the League Two play-off final in May.

Aimson plotted a circuitous route to the national stadium.

A young sporting all-rounder, he was comfortable enough in his own skin during his formative years to decline advances from a string of professional clubs.

Only when he was 18, in August 2012, did he definitively plump for football, leaving Eastleigh for Hull City – managed by redoubtable former Manchester United defender Steve Bruce.

Aimson told *The Times*: “I had offers from quite a few clubs but tried to stay away from that side of it when I was younger.

“I grew up playing a lot of sports, but you reach an age where, if you want to progress in one of them, you have to make a choice.

Persuaded

“I was playing county golf and had a five handicap, but I chose football. I had about 18 months when I really got my head down to try to make something of it and then Hull came in for me.”

Ironically, grandad Paul had started out as a centre-half at Manchester City before being persuaded his wares would be better deployed at the other end of the pitch.

He passed away in 2008, but his influence on Will is enduring. So, too, on brothers Lewis, who plays for Bashley, and 18-year-old Ross, another promising footballer to come off the Aimsons' very own production line – and who actually beat Will to the punch when it came to playing at Wembley.

“I have been told all about my grandad's career and shown loads of clippings and photos,” says 23-year-old Will.

“I used to play as a striker,



Blackpool's Will Aimson. Picture by Rachel Holborn.

which was his position. He was always arguing with my dad about him putting me to centre half!

“He never missed a game – and that went for my brothers as well. I really looked up to him.

“We are all close. Lewis is a good player and so is Ross – but he has a take it or leave it approach!”

Ross was 11 when he played at Wembley in the same South of England team as current Cherries player Corey Jordan. They faced their northern counterparts in a precursor to the 2010 League Two play-off final between Dagenham & Redbridge and Rotherham.

Will remembers his thoughts as he watched the showpiece action from the stands.

“I was thinking ‘I'd love a bit of that’ – so to find myself playing in the same game seven years later was strange,” he says.

“Days like our play-off final don't come around too often. You look back and think ‘wow, that was quite something’.

“To be playing on a stage like that, and have my family and friends there... it doesn't get any better.”

Aimson joined Blackpool from Hull in November 2015, having spent the previous 12 months recovering mentally and physically from a leg break he suffered playing on loan for Tranmere.

Blackpool were in the Premier League six years ago but, amid intense rancour between supporters and chairman Karl Oyston, they had been sinking fast. Until now... albeit thousands of fans will continue to boycott games while Oyston remains at the helm.

“My injury was like the flick of a switch and I was suddenly out for a year,” says Aimson, a former Highcliffe Senior School pupil.

“It wasn't easy but I think, if anything, it made me stronger.

“I didn't break into the first team at Hull but I learned a lot from Steve Bruce – he was great

with the younger players.

“Now I have found a place where I can play football and, hopefully, kick on again.

“We don't get involved in the off-field stuff. We respect where some fans are coming from – you get used to playing in front of the smaller crowds and have to get on with it.

“It's great to have something positive to say about the club, because it's been on a downward spiral.”

The only fly in Aimson's ointment is the currently relatively reduced state of his golf game.

“I have the odd round when I play how I used to,” he says. “I can still hit the shots – just nowhere near as often!”

The precious hardware he took home from Wembley, however, serves as an ongoing reminder Will Aimson chose the right sporting path.

Judicious decision making is clearly a family trait.

Another injury blow for Magpies skipper

INSPIRATIONAL Wimborne Town skipper Scott Arnold is facing a race against time to be fit for the start of the new season after suffering another injury blow.

Defender Arnold damaged ankle ligaments in his first pre-season training session – having only just returned from a seven-month lay-off, writes Neil Perrett.

The 32-year-old, who is in his testimonial campaign at Cuthbury, went under the knife in November to cure a persistent hip problem.

Arnold has made more than 500 appearances for the club but could be struggling to be in contention for their Evo-Stik South West home opener against Bishops Cleeve next weekend (August 12).

Magpies boss Matt Holmes explained: “Scott turned his ankle in our first training session, which was a real shame.

“Hopefully he's about to start



Scott Arnold

training again, but with regard to game time and being ready to start the season, it might be tough for him because he will have to build up his fitness. We hope to have him for the long term rather than rush him back.

“A player's fitness base is built around pre-season and they need to get it in their system, especially at this level. “They need to do the sessions and play the games because we don't have much contact time with them.”

Arnold has been working under the watchful eye of new club physio Laurence Russell, a qualified sports therapist at Lilliput Health in Poole.

Russell has filled the void created by John Edwards's retirement and spent a six-month placement at Plymouth Argyle where he shadowed head physio Paul Atkinson.

“We have a good link with Lilliput Health,” said Holmes. “John retiring was a big blow and trying to get good physios at this level is hard.

“Laurence has been looking after the boys and making sure they are doing the right rehab. He is full of enthusiasm and has really good knowledge.”

NON LEAGUE

August 6-12

Monday, August 7

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
Gloucester City v Truro, Hungerford v Weston-super-Mare.

Tuesday, August 8

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Aldershot v Torquay, Barrow v FC Halifax, Boreham Wood v Dagenham & Redbridge, Chester v AFC Fylde, Dover v Bromley, Eastleigh v Sutton, Ebbsfleet v Maidstone, Gateshead v Guiseley, Leyton Orient v Solihull Moors, Macclesfield v Hartlepool, Maidenhead v Wrexham, Tranmere v Woking.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath v Chippenham, Braintree v Dartford, Concord v Hemel Hempstead, Hampton & Richmond v Oxford City, Havant & Waterlooville v Eastbourne Borough, Poole v Bognor Regis, St Albans v Wealdstone, Welling v Chelmsford, Whitehawk v East Thurrock.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Amesbury Town v Brockenhurst, Bashley v Hamworthy Utd, Bemerton HH v Blackfield & Langley, Cowes Sports v Team Solent, Fareham Town v Petersfield Town, Hamble Club v Bournemouth Poppies, Horndean v AFC Portchester, Newport IW v Lymington Town, Portland Utd v Shaftesbury, Sholing v Baffins MR.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v Verwood, Fawley AFC v Totton & Eling.

NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Combination Division (6.45pm kick-offs): Fleetlands v Hedge End Rangers, Four Marks v Winchester Castle, Hayling Utd v Paulsgrove.

Wednesday, August 9

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alresford Town v Andover Town.

NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Combination Division (6.45pm kick-offs): QK Southampton v Michelmersh & Timsbury (TBC).

Friday, August 11

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Division One: Fawley AFC v Andover NS.

Saturday, August 12

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Aldershot v Guiseley, Barrow v Woking, Boreham Wood v Solihull, Chester v FC Halifax, Dover v Wrexham, Eastleigh v Dagenham & Redbridge, Ebbsfleet v AFC Fylde, Gateshead v Torquay, Leyton Orient v Maidstone, Macclesfield v Bromley, Maidenhead v Hartlepool (BT Sport, 12.30), Tranmere v Sutton.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath v Chelmsford, Braintree v Chippenham, Concord v Truro, Gloucester v Wealdstone, Hampton & Richmond v Eastbourne Borough, Havant & Waterlooville v Dartford, Hungerford v Hemel Hempstead, Poole v East Thurrock, St Albans v Weston-super-Mare, Welling v Bognor Regis, Whitehawk v Oxford City.

EVO-STIK SOUTH LEAGUE

Premier: Banbury v Dorchester, Basingstoke v Frome, Biggleswade v Chesham, Kings Lynn v Gosport Borough, Kings Langley v Hereford, Merthyr Town v Hitchin, Redditch v Dunstable, Royston v Stratford, Slough v Kettering, St Neots v Farnborough, Tiverton v Bishops Cleeve, Weymouth v St Ives.

West: AFC Totton v Barnstaple, Bideford v Didcot, Cinderford v Swindon Supermarine, Cirencester v Taunton, Kidlington v Yate, Larkhall v Evesham, Mangotsfield v Salisbury, North Leigh v Bristol Manor Farm, Paulton Rovers v Slimbridge, Shortwood v Winchester City, Wimborne v Bishops Cleeve.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Team Solent, Alresford Town v Brockenhurst, Andover Town v Sholing, Baffins MR v Fareham Town, Cowes Sports v Portland Utd, Hamble Club v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy Utd v Newport IW, Horndean v Bournemouth Poppies, Petersfield Town v Amesbury Town, Shaftesbury v Lymington Town.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v Weymouth Res, Alton v Ringwood, Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calvea, Laverstock & Ford v Romsey Town, New Milton v Folland Sports, Totton & Eling v US Portsmouth, Verwood Town v East Cowes Vics, Whitechurch v Christchurch.

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP

First round: Northerners v Bashley.

NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

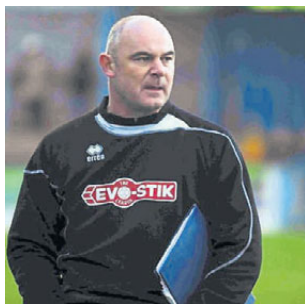
Premier Division: Clanfield v Bush Hill, Hayling Utd v Golden Common, Infinity v Overton, Liphook v Hedge End Rangers, Paulsgrove v Winchester Castle, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Stockbridge v Fleetlands, Sway v Liss Athletic.

Division One: AFC Petersfield v Lyndhurst, Netley Central Sports v Four Marks, South Wiston Swifts v Headley Utd, Upham v Michelmersh & Timsbury.

Combination Division: Bush Hill v Liphook, Fleetlands v Headley, Four Marks v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Overton v Clanfield, Winchester Castle v QK Southampton.

NON LEAGUE

King banking on Hammers' improvement



Brendon King

BOSS Brendon King is confident the characters brought into his Hamworthy United squad this term will make a big difference.

United have recruited from higher up the non-League circuit this summer, with Nathan Walker and Jamie Gleeson coming in from Dorchester Town and Poole Town respectively.

"We have managed to keep the majority of the squad from last season and have identified players that we needed in terms of experience," said King, who is expected to give Walker the cap-

tain's armband.

"We are pleased to get Nathan Walker, Jamie Gleeson, Harry Montacute and Jamie Filkins in. To mix that with the youth and talent we have got is really good."

Hamworthy finished 16th in 2016/17 and King - appointed successor to Carl Poore last November - stressed: "I needed some more leaders on the pitch. We were lacking that last season."

"Players like Nathan and Gles are winners and, hopefully, that's going to rub off on the younger lads. I am expecting big things

from them because they are good players."

On his expectations for the new season, King claimed: "I have set a target in my head, but I am not going to go shouting from the rooftops or anything like that."

"I know where we should be finishing with the squad we've got. I am not going out and saying we are going to win the league because that's just ridiculous."

"However, I would like to think we would be up towards the top half and pushing towards the top six."

Molesley happy for some Cherry aid!

Wendy Glee



WEYMOUTH boss Mark Molesley was grateful for some 'Cherry aid' to help him solve a goalkeeper problem.

Molesley, who doubles up as assistant manager of AFC Bournemouth's under-21s, recruited Republic of Ireland youth international Mark Travers from the Vitality Stadium on a six-month loan deal in early July.

But Travers was ruled out of Weymouth's pre-season friendly with Poole Town last Saturday after being involved in a minor accident on the eve of the match.

That meant Callum Stanton, also a member of Cherries' under-21 set-up, stood in on a one-off basis.

Speaking after the 1-1 draw, Molesley explained: "Mark was in a minor accident and, as a precaution, he was ruled out for a few days with possible concussion."

"He's fine, but it only happened on the Friday."

"We were without a goalkeeper but, fortunately, Bournemouth loaned us another one in Callum Stanton, who gave a good account of himself."

"The transition was smooth because I work with Callum day in, day out, anyway. Some of the players know him as well."

"It worked for both parties."

"At Bournemouth, one of their other goalkeepers got 90 minutes - and it saved me going in goal!"

Striker Harry Baker netted his first goal for the Terras against Poole but it was cancelled out by Southampton-based former East-



Mark Molesley

leigh and Gosport Borough frontman Tony Lee.

● POOLE Town completed their pre-season schedule with a 1-1 draw at Merley Cobham Sports on Monday.

The Dolphins fielded a mainly young side and it was teenage striker Ollie Balmer who found the net.

Poole have high hopes for Balmer, who recently signed a 12-month deal for the National

League South club.

Manager Tom Killick said: "Ollie has done well and has been a bright spot during pre-season."

"We are looking forward to seeing how he does once the real matches start."



NON LEAGUE



New York injury rules Moore out of opener



Simon Moore

ISLE of Wight goalkeeper Simon Moore is missing the start of the Championship season for newly-promoted Sheffield United.

Moore – son of former Road-Sea Southampton 'keeper and Brading Town boss Phil – suffered a knee injury during the Blades' pre-season friendly victory over Rotherham last month.

And it was the sight of the 27-year-old being stretchered off

the pitch at New York Stadium that prompted manager Chris Wilder to loan Chelsea youngster Jamal Blackman who made his debut in last Friday's 3-2 friendly victory at Eastleigh.

Blackman, 23, is highly rated by Chelsea but knows he will face stiff competition when Moore is fit again.

Moore's knee problem is understood to be less serious than first feared and he was

due to have a minor clean-up operation this week.

Sandown-born Moore has played for Brentford, Cardiff City and Bristol City (loan) since his Brading Town days.

He signed a three-year contract for the Blades last August and was named in the PFA League One team-of-the-year after helping United clinch promotion as champions.

Luke 'has a lot to prove'

LUKE Winsper has "got a lot to prove" as a Southern League footballer after a constructive season with Blackfield & Langley.

Plagued by injuries during a five-year spell at Weymouth, Winsper left the Bob Lucas Stadium in May last year and joined Blackfield, playing 37 games and scoring nine times for the Sydenhams Premier club during 2016/17.

Now back in the Southern Premier with Dorchester, Winsper insists a spell playing Wessex League football for the Watersiders provided the perfect platform for him.

The central midfielder is now looking to showcase what he can do.

"I feel like I have got a lot to prove back at this level," said Winsper, who



Luke Winsper

knows Dorchester boss Craig Laird from their Weymouth days together.

"I feel I can play at this level and Craig knows that, otherwise he wouldn't have signed me.

"I just needed that year out at Blackfield, just to get a full season of games and to get myself fit after my injuries.

"I feel absolutely fine. Being with the lads now I feel I am fitter than I was again last season.

"I just want to stay fit, give Dorchester everything I can and see where it goes," Winsper added. "I had to move on from Weymouth to get the game time. I couldn't just sit there and play every now and again.

"Craig is now at Dorchester and he has given me the opportunity to get into the team. We have quite a big squad and it's going to be a challenge for places, so everyone has to be performing."

Penalty-mania hits Hamble Club!

Wendy Gee



PENALTY-MANIA hit Hamble Club on Tuesday night as no fewer than FOUR spot kicks were awarded during the Monks' 2-2 draw with Newport IW.

It was a weird introduction to Premier Division football for the promoted Sydenhams One champions and manager Ben Kneller, who felt some of the spot-kick awards were "soft", quipped: "All I can say is that if they are going to be viewed as penalties, then we're going to see an awful lot of penalties given this season!"

Newport's two spot kicks, successfully netted by Aidan Sainsbury and Josh Younie, were both awarded against muscular former Sholing centre-back PJ McLean who has missed the last 18 months following a hip operation.

First he was deemed to have brought down Charlie Urry and then he was punished for hauling over Jared Wetherick as the Newport man attempted to dart across him.

Soft

Kneller said: "The first one for me was soft and I'm not sure there was a lot of contact for the second one either.

"PJ's a big lad and I don't think any sort of contact goes in his favour.

"It's great to have him back though after 18 months out. He's a big character to have around the dressing room."

Having got back to 1-1 when

Danny Cox got the final touch on Mike Byrne's header across goal, Hamble were awarded a penalty of their own.

By that point, Port were down to ten men having had Mark Taylor dismissed, but the Monks failed to take advantage as Cox blazed the spot kick over the bar.

Younie then showed how it should be done from 12 yards before referee Adam Baker pointed to the spot yet again in the closing stages when Byrne's header struck a Newport arm.

Nathan Lynch stepped up to take it and, although Islanders' keeper Gary Streeter went the right way, he was beaten by the speed and power of the striker's kick.

Dominated

Reflecting on a rollercoaster evening, Kneller said: "I think even Newport would admit we dominated the game. We had most of the chances, but our end product wasn't great. It doesn't count for anything if you don't take your chances and fair play to Newport.

"It was a great occasion under lights, we had over 100 people in and I've had a lot of messages from neutrals saying they enjoyed it. There were goals, penalties and a lot of good football on show.

"We'll play a lot worse than that and win games.

"But we always say that if we can't get the three points then get the one and you could see from Tuesday night that my lads don't lie down and die.

"That's it done now. We're a Wessex Premier side and it's on to Baffins Milton Rovers on Saturday (today)."



PJ McLean (photo: Hamble Club FC).

National Lge newcomers

EASTLEIGH boss Richard Hill has been busy ahead of the forthcoming National League season.

He has brought in 10 new signings - Paul McCallum, Danny Hollands, Ross Flitney, Chris Zebroski, Mark Yeates, Sam Wood, Andrew Boyce, Harvey Read, Cavaghn Miley and Ben Williamson.

But Hill's divisional rivals have also been busy strengthening their squad, and Eastleigh are one of numerous south east based clubs in the top tier of non league football.

That means competition to sign players is ultra competitive.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at who Eastleigh's southern-based National League rivals have signed in readiness for the 2017/18 campaign.

And there is a fair smattering of former Spirefires who have been on the move.

Boreham Wood

Veteran striker Paul Benson, now 37, has been recruited from Dagenham & Redbridge. Used mainly as a sub last season, he scored five league goals - including one in April's 4-0 win over visiting Eastleigh.

Ins: Bradley Ash (Barnsley, loan), Tom Champion (Barnet), Paul Benson (Dagenham & Redbridge), Shaun Jeffers (Chelmsford City), Ryan Johnson (Stevenage, loan), Kieran Murtagh (Woking), Kane Smith (Hitchin Town), Dean Wells (Stevenage)

Bromley



Brett Williams

Former Eastleigh and AFC Totton striker Brett Williams is one of the Kent club's main summer signings.

The 29-year-old Southampton-born player struck 10 league goals last season for Torquay, etching his name into Gulls folklore with four in his last three National League appearances as the Devon club staged a Great Escape from the drop.

Williams had previously struck 39 fifth tier goals in two seasons for Aldershot after joining them on a free in the summer of 2013, after being released by Reading where he failed to make a first team appearance in three years at the Berkshire club.

Ins: Iffy Allen (Wrexham), David Gregory (Cambridge Utd), Adam Mekki (Tranmere Rovers), Frankie Raymond (Dagenham & Redbridge), Josh Rees (Chelmsford City), Tyrone Sterling (Dover Athletic), Luke Wadadio (Dartford), Brett Williams (Torquay Utd), Ben Wynter (Crystal Palace).

Continued on facing page.

SAINTS

Saints: They need

Peter Howard



FORMER Saint Kevin Davies speaks about his two spells at the clubs as well his views on Mauricio Pellegrino, Virgil van Dijk and what the club could achieve in 2017/18.

Q: What do you expect to see from Saints in 2017/18? Can they compete for a top eight place again?

A: There needs to be more signings and it will be interesting to see what happens between now and the end of the transfer window and particularly whether van Dijk goes and if they have the timescale to reinvest that money. I covered their games for BT last year and, yes, there was some fans a bit disgruntled with the style of play. But when you play that many games in Europe, get to a cup final - which they were unlucky to lose - and finish in the top eight that's a really good season.

You look at the sides above them and it's going to be difficult to compete with them, but they've got a really good manager in Pellegrino and they may well play a more attacking style of football now. Pellegrino always wants his teams to play the right way.

The fans need to believe in Les Reed and the model they have created down there. I'm a big fan of what they do where they plan for the future.

You may question their ambition a little bit and want them to keep their better players but they have the model in place to be ahead of the game, whether that is finding the right playing staff or managers.

When you look at where they were seven or eight years ago and now they're going to be in or around that cluster of top eight teams like West Brom, Stoke and Leicester. There is no danger of relegation and they will finish mid-table at least."

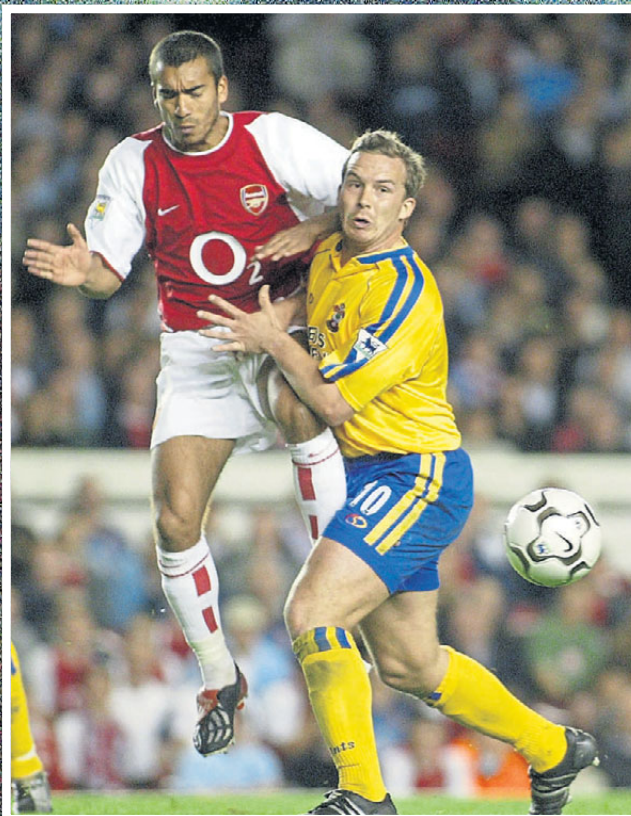
Q: Their biggest flaw last season was the lack of goals. How does Pellegrino bring back that spark up front?

A: They've got enough options there. We saw flashes of what Gabbiadini is capable of and, though he has never been prolific at previous clubs in Italy, he looks a real fox in the box.

All the strikers have different attributes with the likes of Shane Long and Charlie Austin. Both missed a lot of last season through injury but they're different kinds of strikers who can cause different kinds of problems for defenders.

There is Redmond in there as well, so it comes down to the man-

'The fans need to believe in Les Reed and the model they have created down there.'



Kevin Davies, right, celebrates scoring against Manchester United in January 1998. Left - in action at Arsenal on his last Saints outing in May 2003.

ager and what he sees in pre-season. Whether he plays three up or one or the old-fashioned 4-4-2 there are plenty of attacking options and it's about settling on a system that clicks.

There will be less rotation, which is good, because the best players want to play every week and that leads to frustration.

Long only made ten (league)

starts last season so there is frustration there, but what that gives a manager is a clean slate. They will all be eager to impress and make that starting line-up and stay there.

Q: Can Shane Long rediscover his goalscoring form after a frustrating campaign?

A: As players you can start looking at the manager and blaming

him, but you have to try and understand the amount of games Southampton played. Puel felt rotation was the way to go and I think it worked. Having said that, personally as a striker when I played and was scoring that gave me a lot of confidence unlike when you played and never quite knew when you'd be playing next.

Sometimes that can frustrate a

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SAINTS



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player and I did see that in Shane Long last year. He's never been a prolific striker but he's a handful who stretches defences and creates space for those behind him. For that, he doesn't get the recognition he deserves. He will be viewing this as a fresh start."

Q: There's a young stiker Sam Gallagher at Saints right now.

He scored 12 goals for Blackburn last season and was handed a new contract at Saints as a result. If you'd have any advice for him as an upcoming striker in the Premier League, what would it be?

A: It comes down to his attitude and work-rate and doing all the right things on the training ground; looking after himself profession-

ally and making an impression on the new manager.

He needs to try and get involved in the squad, in the eighteen on match-days.

He's had a taste of top level football at Blackburn and he did really well, scoring one in three for a poor side. Considering that Blackburn really struggled he had a really good season and he's still only 21.

Coming into this new season he'll have to assess his situation - whether he's in the squad and getting enough game-time or whether he finds himself down the pecking order.

If it's the latter he might need to go out on loan, as a lot of young players do. He'll have to make that call.

Q: What is your view on the Virgil van Dijk situation?

A: It just seems unsavoury. Clearly the player wants to go and Southampton are taking a stance which they have every right to do as he signed a new contract not so long ago.

It needs to be resolved sooner rather later though because it looks inevitable that they're going to sell him at some point.

The club has done really well bringing in players at the right time then selling them on, but I know there are a lot of fans - including Matt le Tissier - who would like those players to stay.

That is so difficult when the big clubs come calling and maybe it's the right move to sell him if they triple their money on him.

With the model they have at Southampton, they will have been planning this for months, years, and will know how best to reinvest that money.

Q: Unlike most clubs this summer, Saints have not spent much money - do they need to invest in order to remain competitive?

A: They need to and they haven't been shy in the past of reinvesting the money they receive. In the past couple of years they've brought in something like £200m and they keep reinvesting it because they've got the scouting 'black box' model where they're constantly scouring the planet for the best young players.

It almost feels like a stepping-stone club at times where they look to develop.

It wouldn't surprise me if they already have their targets in mind and negotiations are going on so they can wisely reinvest the money they get for van Dijk.

They need competition for places and to keep adding to the squad if they want to push forward.

Q: What are your fondest memories of playing for Saints?

A: The first year down there. I obviously made the move from Chesterfield (in the summer of 1997) where I'd been playing in League One so it was incredible to play in the Premier League at the age of 20.

Continued on page 18

National Lge newcomers

from facing page

Dagenham

The Daggers have signed Braintree striker Michael Cheek ahead of their second season back in non league football.

Cheek scored 20 times for the Essex club last season - including both in a 2-0 win at Eastleigh towards the end of Martin Allen's short-lived spell at the Silverlake in mid-February.

His goals could not prevent Braintree from being relegated, though, and Dagenham moved to offer him the chance to stay in the National League alongside Oliver Hawkins, who struck 18 league goals last term.

Former Spitfires defender Bondz N'Gala has also arrived on a free transfer, and will be hoping for a less hectic 2017/18 campaign.

N'Gala started last term with Barnet, before dropping down into the National League to become Eastleigh's record signing in November.

He only made nine league appearances for the club, though, before his former Barnet boss Martin Allen allowed him to leave in January to sign for Gillingham.

However, just a few hours after announcing his arrival the Gills released a statement saying he was



Bondz N'Gala

ineligible to feature for them - they had been unaware FIFA's transfer rules prevented players playing for more than two clubs in a season included non-league teams.

Non league rules are different, though, and so N'Gala subsequently appeared in five National League games for Dover.

Daggers chief John Still has also signed Dan Sparkes, who two seasons ago was in the same Braintree team as Cheek that qualified for the National League play-offs, where they lost in the semis to Grimsby. Sparkes spent last season at Torquay.

Ins: Charlee Adams (Birmingham), Michael Chee (Braintree), Morgan Ferrier (Boreham Wood, Undisclosed), Bondz N'Gala (Dover), Ben Nunn (Boreham Wood), Dan Sparkes (Torquay Utd).

Dover Athletic

Dover boss Chris Kinnear has lost numerous regulars from the side reached the National League play-offs last term.

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National Lge newcomers

from page 17

His top three goalscorers have all left, along with defender Aswad Thomas and midfielder Sam Magri.

Former Eastleigh striker Ryan Bird is one of numerous summer arrivals.

Bird started last season at the Silverlake after being part of Chris Todd's huge summer of 2016 shake-up.

But he only scored three league goals in 15 appearances before Martin Allen allowed him to join League 2 club Newport on loan in January.

Bird's six goals in 19 games included a couple of late-season match-winners, which eventually helped the Welsh club avoid relegation to non league football thanks to a last minute winner on the final day of the season.

Two more new strikers are Kane Richards, who had been released by Chester, and Jamie Allen, who has left relegated Southport to stay in the fifth tier.

Defender Connor Essam, who was also signed by Todd in the summer of 2016, returned to Dover on loan during 2016/17 and the move has since been made permanent.

Ins: Jamie Allen (Southport), Ryan Bird (Newport Co), Mitch Brundle (Gateshead), Connor Essam (Eastleigh), Giancarlo Gallifuoco (Torquay), Femi Ilesanmi (Boreham Wood), Manny Parry (Braintree), Josh Passley (Whitehawk), Kane



Ryan Bird

Richards (Chester FC), Tobi Sho-Silva (Bromley)

Ebbsfleet United

Former Eastleigh midfielder Darryl McMahon is now in his third season at Ebbsfleet boss.

In his first, 2015/16, the club reached the Conference South play offs but lost in the semi final after finishing runners-up in the league.

Last season, 2016/17, Ebbsfleet again finished second - just two points adrift of champions Maidenhead - but McMahon's poor record in the play-offs (four defeats as a player and manager in the previous six years) was ended with a 2-1 final win over Chelmsford.

One signing of note this summer which will have caught Eastleigh fans' eye is ex-Spittire Luke Coulson.

The midfielder only left the Silverlake Stadium last January to sign for League 2 club Barnet, but this summer returned to the National League for an undisclosed sum.

The former Manchester City academy player, 23, only appeared in 11 league games for Barnet.

McMahon has also signed former Antigua international winger Myles Weston, a player with over 300 Football League appearances to his name.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Ups and downs

Peter Howard



From page 17

I still remember going down with the PFA and then negotiating the deal for me with Graeme Souness, who was the manager at the time. He left that summer and Dave Jones took over.

There was so much hype around the Premier League and to play with these legends like Zola and Bergkamp was so exciting for me.

Q: November 4, 1997, Goodison Park. That solo goal against Everton, where does it rank in your best goals scored?

A: That has to be the best one I scored. It was live on Sky and I loved playing at Goodison Park. I see it every now and again on those TV shows and I have a little laugh and a joke with my children saying 'Have a look at this'. I got the ball and things opened up for me so had a little dribble up from the halfway line and it found the net.

Q: Do you feel you may have got a bit unlucky at Saints at times - looking back especially on that ankle ligament injury against Manchester United at The Dell?

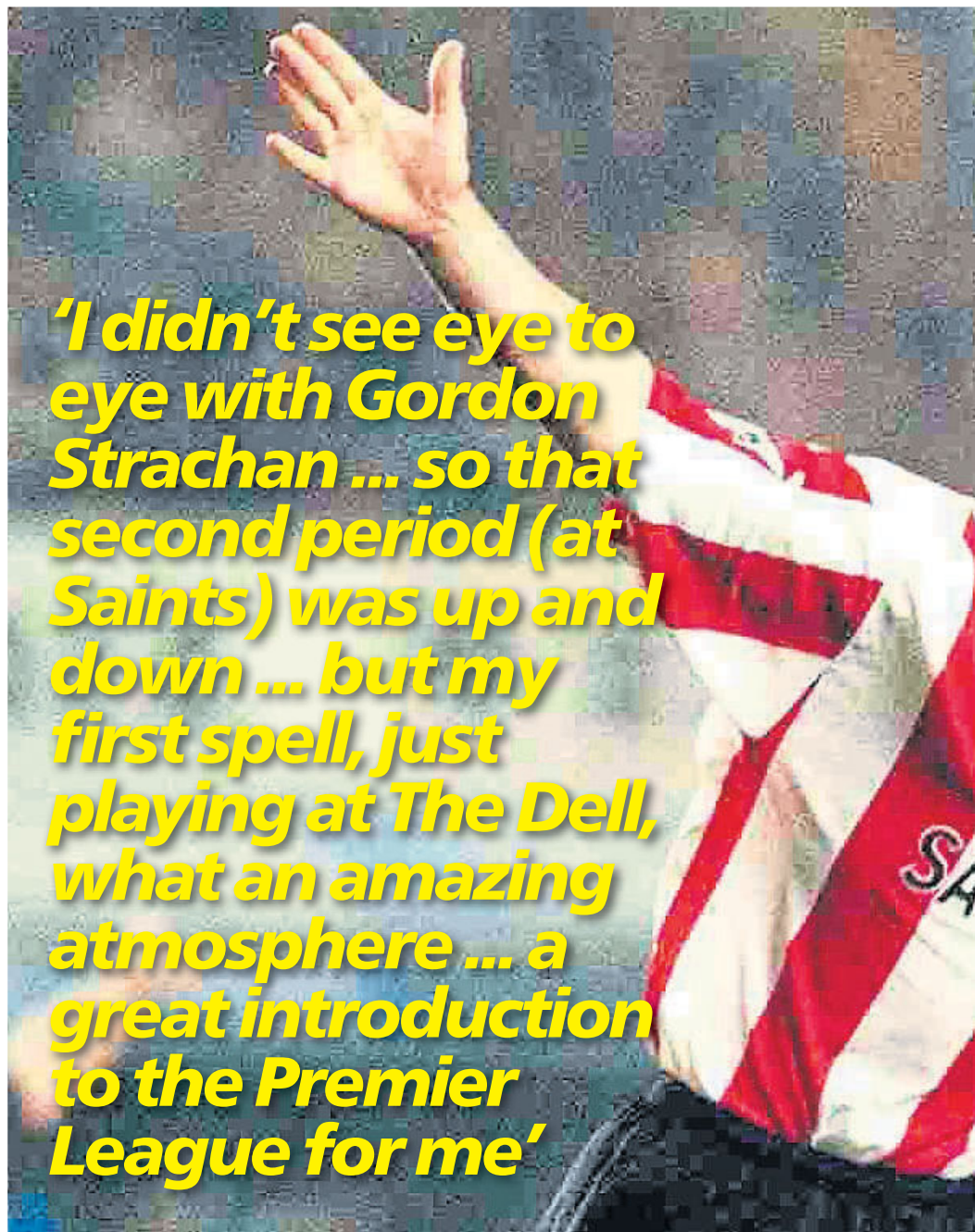
A: Leading up to that ankle injury I was absolutely flying at the time in January. We had a good season that year, barring my injury. You have ifs and buts and maybe that was a turning point for me because you wonder what could have happened.

If I hadn't got injured that summer was the World Cup. My ankle was never really the same again and that was a big turning point in my career. I went on to do alright, but I was never quite the same player again.

Q: How much did your two spells at Saints shape you as a player - obviously it gave you your opportunity in the Premier League?

A: It was a bit up and down at times with new managers coming in. Dave Jones left and Glenn Hoddle came in then Gordon Strachan who I didn't see eye-to-eye with from start to finish. So that second period was up and down but my first spell there.... just playing at the Dell, what an amazing atmosphere, and being involved in a really good, happy squad. It was a great introduction to the Premier League for me

Q: After the big money (£7.5m) move to Blackburn, was it a difficult decision to come back to Saints? How had the club changed?



'I didn't see eye to eye with Gordon Strachan ... so that second period (at Saints) was up and down ... but my first spell, just playing at The Dell, what an amazing atmosphere ... a great introduction to the Premier League for me'

A: It's well documented that I didn't enjoy my time at Blackburn. It was a big money move and sometimes they just don't work out. I signed a seven-year contract when I went up there and then had a difficult first season competing with five or six strikers.

I was used to playing in dressing rooms where everybody got on and I didn't feel that at Blackburn. There were power struggles going on and it felt quite cliquey.

It didn't feel right and I didn't enjoy my football. We got relegated that season and I was in and out of the team with injuries and illnesses.

It was a difficult time, especially with the expectation that came with the fee. There were pressure and nerves.

Roy Hodgson got sacked and Brian Kidd came in and a couple of games into the Championship he pulled me into his office and was very understanding with me.

He said 'Would you be interested in going back?' because Blackburn wanted to swap with Egil Olsenstad.

It wasn't a difficult decision at all because I'd had a great time at Southampton and I wasn't prepared to sit there for five or six years just picking up my money at Blackburn.

It suited both parties and for me it was the easiest decision of my life. I have to say that Jack Walker was fantastic with me through-

SAINTS



of my Saints life



Kevin Davies celebrates his stunning goal against Everton in November 1997. Below - Davies in action for Saints in the FA Cup against Millwall six years later.



out my time there and he knew I wasn't happy.

Not much had changed at Southampton. There was still a great team spirit and Dave Jones was still there. It was like going back home. I loved the lifestyle and the area and I had great friends down there. The only thing that changed was me. My confidence had taken a bit of a battering so it took some time to get that going again.

Q: While most might remember the FA Cup exploits with Chesterfield, some forget your last minute goal for Saints in the fourth round at home to Millwall that kept the club in the 2003 competition (which led them eventually to the final). How disappointing was it not to be involved in the final?

A: Gordon Strachan came in and we didn't see eye-to-eye from the first week. That happens in football. I wasn't in or around the

squad so I took the decision to go out on loan. I was in my final year anyway and I wanted to prove I could still do it, so I went to Millwall. It didn't matter where really because I needed some games: I was rotting away.

I came back and knuckled down and started scoring in the reserves. There was a cup run and I came on as a sub for that game and scored a late equaliser. We won the replay and got to the final and though I've had lots of good

points in my career that was a difficult moment when he pulled me aside an hour before the game and told me I wasn't going to be involved.

It was a huge disappointment for me. I knew I wouldn't start but I was hoping to be a substitute and you have those dreams about coming on against Arsenal and scoring the winner. I was desperate to get my hands on that trophy throughout my whole career.

Q: You were perhaps unfairly labelled as a more physical player later in your career, which is nothing like the style of the player at Saints. Why did your game change?

A: I can't remember a moment when I thought I needed to adapt. At Chesterfield I'd played out on the wing or behind the main striker. I was a bit nipper in my younger days and maybe the injury to my ankle affected that. But I always enjoyed the physical side of football. I grew up on a council estate and I'd play against the older boys on the parks. Then I went to Bolton with Sam on trial around 2003 and, I don't know, I just enjoy the battle and getting the better of your opponent then shaking hands and having a couple of pints. That was my way of thinking. So it just developed and that first season at Bolton we had a huge amount of success with me as the main striker and the likes of Campo and Diouf playing around me. The stats backed it up because I was involved in about 70/80 per cent of the goals. Maybe Sam just stumbled upon it and we went from there.

Q: Who was the best player you played with at Saints (Le Tiss excluded)?

A: Matt was obviously the most naturally gifted player I've played with alongside Jay Jay Okocha. At Southampton we didn't really have a lot of superstars: we were hard-working players who enjoyed training and each other's company. We'd be out at weekends together having a few drinks. It was a proper changing room.

We had characters like Carlton Palmer, John Beresford and David Hurst - old-school players - so no-one was allowed to go off on one and be big-time Charlies. I'd liken it to Wales at the Euros where they did so well without having any proper superstars other than Bale."

We had some good players of course. Marians Pahars was a natural finisher and they loved him down there. There was my partnership too with James Beattie.

Head to 888sport.com/blog to read the full interview with Kevin Davies. Southampton are 7/10 with 888sport to start their season with a win against Swansea City next weekend. T&Cs apply. Odds subject to change.

National Lge newcomers

from facing page

Weston was Notts County's player of the season in 2008/09 prior to joining Brentford for £25,000. He struck twice on his Bees debut and spent three years at Griffin Park before linking up with Martin Allen's Gillingham in the summer of 2012. Weston promptly helped the Gills win the League 2 title before he was allowed to join Southend. His relatively nomadic career continued last season when he made 19 League 2 appearances for Wycombe.

Another new face is former Whitehawk striker Danny Mills, who scored 102 goals for the Sussex club after joining them in 2012.

Mills struck 18 league clubs in 2013/14, including five in one game at Dorchester, and at the end of that season he was the subject of an unsuccessful five-figure bid from Havant & Waterlooville.

Last season he netted 22 Conference South goals for the Hawks, during a season where they were briefly managed by current Eastleigh boss Richard Hill.

Ins: Luke Coulson (Barnet, Undisclosed), Bagasan Graham (Chelmsford City), Sam Magri (Dover Athletic), Danny Mills (Whitehawk), Jack Payne (Blackpool), Myles Weston (Wycombe)



Luke Coulson.

Leyton Orient

It has been a busy summer at the National League new boys for recently appointed manager Steve Davis.

The former Crewe boss has made a host of new signings as the London club attempt to rebuild in non league football following a remarkable 2016/17 season which featured five different managers.

The most well-known of Davis' signings is former Crystal Palace, Watford and Reading winger Jobi McAnuff. Now 35, the player is well known to Orient fans - he spent two years at the club prior to moving to Stevenage last summer.

Striker David Mooney, 32, has also returned to Orient after two years at Southend, while ex-Tottenham trainee Charlie Lee has made over 300 Football League outings for Peterborough, Gillingham and Stevenage, while defender George Elokobi has played for Wolves in the Premier League.

Another defender, Joe Widdowson, was a regular as Dagenham reached the National League play-offs last season.

Ins: Romuald Boco (Accrington), Macauley Bonne (Colchester), Jack Caprice (Woking), Craig Clay (Motherwell), George Elokobi (Colchester), Alex Lawless (Yeovil), Charlie Lee (Stevenage), Jobi McAnuff (Stevenage), David Mooney (Southend Utd), Christian Scales (Whitehawk), Joe Widdowson (Dagenham & Redbridge)

Continued on page 20

National Lge newcomers

from facing page

SUTTON

Ex-Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell has brought two former Spitfires strikers to Gander Green Lane this summer in Moses Emmanuel and Ross Lafayette.

Emmanuel - who was known as Moses Ademola when he scored seven goals for Eastleigh in a short spell at the start of the 2012/13 Conference South season - struck 11 times for the Kent club last term.

Eight of those came in a seven-game purple match between mid November and early January, including a hat-trick in Dover's stunning 6-0 league win at Sutton which no doubt Doswell remembered when signing the player this summer.

Lafayette failed to impress when spending a season at Eastleigh in 2015/16, scoring just four times in the league.

Moving to Dover at the start of last season, he promptly netted three in his first four league games including one in a 4-2 win at Eastleigh which cost Chris Todd his job.

Lafayette ended the campaign as Dover's second highest league scorer with 12 goals - a whopping 28 behind the division's leading marksman, Ricky Miller.

With Miller having moved to Peterborough, and Emmanuel



Paul Doswell.

having joined Lafayette at Sutton, the Kent club must now try and replace the three men who between them scored 63 league goals in 2016/17.

Doswell has also signed a third Dover player this summer, former Grimsby and Woking defender Aswad Thomas. He was a regular for the Kent club last term, making 38 league starts.

Ins: Kenny Davis - Boreham Wood), Moses Emmanuel (Dover), Anthony Jeffrey (Forest Green), Ross Lafayette (Dover), Aswad Thomas (Dover), Simon Walton (Guiseley)

Maidenhead

Boss Alan Devonshire, the former West Ham winger, has added striker Jake Hyde to his National League South title-winning squad.

Hyde scored 14 goals for Barnet in 2012/13 and a further 12 the following season. He spent last season at Stevenage but barely featured.

Devonshire has managed to hold onto the services of former Farnborough and Basingstoke striker Dave Tarpey. Last season, in his first at the club after being reunited with his former Hampton & Richmond boss Devonshire, Tarpey rewrote the record books by bagging 45 goals.

Ins: Jake Goodman (Braintree), Jake Hyde (Stevenage), Chinedu McKenzie (Romford), Harold Odamegye (Hampton & RB). Continued on page 22

SAINTS

The saga that has

Simon Carter



IT is, in footballing terms anyway, a classic 'between a rock and a hard place' scenario.

And Southampton FC are caught smack bang in the middle of it at a time when all focus should be on the forthcoming Premier League season.

Obviously I am talking about the Virgil van Dijk situation here. The story that has dominated the summer as far as the St Mary's faithful are concerned.

No one man is bigger than the club - that's a statement often bandied about and patently true - but the van Dijk saga has totally overshadowed the arrival of yet another new manager.

The Dutchman's situation doesn't threaten to cast a large shadow over the dawn of another top flight season - no, it is too late for that. The shadow has long been cast.

Dell managerial legend Lawrie McMenemy, writing in the Daily Echo last weekend, said he had sympathy for Les Reed and the other members of Saints' hierarchy with regards to van Dijk's strop.

Now, sympathy towards Reed has at times been in short supply from the supporters, ever since Mauricio Pochettino's exit in May 2014 acted as the catalyst for a huge summer exodus of crown jewels.

Here, though, surely McMenemy is right.

Isn't he? After all, Saints have done nothing wrong. They have so far refused to sell a player who is on a large contract and who they don't want to lose.

Where is the problem with that? For many summers now, fans have criticised the club for selling their top players too easily, seemingly bending over backwards to accommodate the whims of Liverpool and Manchester United et al.

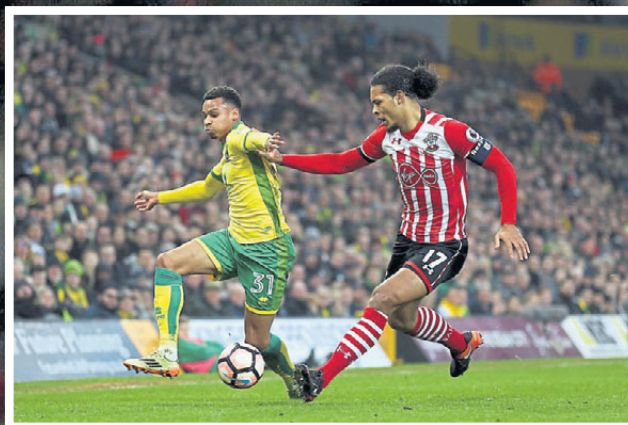
So, this summer, a welcome change from St Mary's. No more Mr Nice Guy.

Yet that sudden change of tack hasn't worked either.

Saints have played hardball, refused to bend this time, and could still end up losing their best player.

In fact, forget the 'still' bit of that sentence. More like 'will end up losing', for this saga can only end one way now. And it's not with van Dijk still at St Mary's.

An unsavoury episode, indeed, which reflects horrendously on the money-centric monster that Rupert Murdoch's cash cow, the



Virgil van Dijk in Premier League action for Saints last season.

Premier League, has mutated into.

Van Dijk has been painted the villain of the piece, and it's hard to argue with that. Obviously £80,000 a week is not enough.

But let's adopt a bit of Devil's Advocate thinking in these pages. Let's try and see it from van Dijk's perspective.

The operative word being 'try'.

Players want to see their own ambition reflected in the actions of the club. That generally means only one thing - signing new players, and sometimes for hefty fees.

Players - and I'm thinking of the foreign contingent - would almost certainly prefer to see expensive new faces enter the changing room rather than a bunch of fresh-faced teenagers not long out

of an academy.

Yes, van Dijk was only too happy to sign a new six-year contract last summer. A contract that made him the highest paid player in Saints' history at over £4.1m a year. Hardly peanuts, and a statement of intent by Saints without a shadow of a doubt.

But it works both ways, doesn't it?

SAINTS



cast a shadow ...



Van Dijk was happy to take the money, and you have to presume he was buying into the Saints' 'project' when he signed. But the club have to show him they are serious about their publicly stated aims of challenging for Europe.

When van Dijk arrived at St Mary's from Celtic towards the end of the summer 2015 transfer window, he was signing for a club

that had just tasted European football. In his first season he would help Saints to a second successive Europa League campaign.

When he signed a new deal, Saints had just finished sixth in what is generally accepted to be the toughest league in world football.

Along with those of the fanbase, perhaps his expectations rose as

a result? Perhaps he now thought Saints should be good enough to qualify for European football every season?

(Arguably, had he not been injured, Saints would be in Europe in 2017/18 - having won the League Cup. Would Zlatan Ibrahimovic had enjoyed so much time and space to inflict damage if van Dijk had been marshalling his

every move?)

Having finished eighth in the league under Claude Puel - albeit nearer the relegation zone than the European places - perhaps he thought Saints would look to strengthen their squad more this summer? Perhaps he expected the club to show the sort of ambition a player of his undoubted talent deserved?

If he did, then he was only expressing the same thoughts, the same worries, the same concerns, that many fans have expressed this summer.

If you have just finished 15 points outside the top seven, are you realistically expecting to break back into that elite section by spending just £5m on a young Polish centre half?

Especially when the team who finished 15 points ahead of you have splashed out almost £100m on new players, and are actively seeking to spend even more on established Premier League quality.

That are worthwhile questions to ask, and van Dijk would be right to ask them, if he hasn't already.

Saints have lost a lot of players in recent summers, but they have generally replaced them all. And replaced them well. Say what you like about the club, but it is hard to criticise their scouting system.

They lost Dejan Lovren in 2014, but replaced him with Toby Alderweireld. Undoubtedly an improvement. Then, after losing Alderweireld to Tottenham's advances, they signed van Dijk.

Alderweireld is probably one of the two best centre halves in the Premier League, and van Dijk is the other.

Saints lost Luke Shaw in 2014, but quickly brought in Ryan Bertrand who had never quite established himself at Premier League level. It didn't take him long to do that at St Mary's.

They lost Victor Wanyama in 2016, but by the time he had left Oriol Romeu had already had a season at St Mary's. Now Romeu might not be quite the player the Kenyan is, but last season - van Dijk apart - he was the best player in Claude Puel's team.

Ok, no scouting system in the world delivers a 100 per cent success rate - hello Juanmi and Jordy Clasie - but Saints' delivers more aces than duds. A look at the league finishes over the past four seasons is testimony to that.

But van Dijk could be excused for asking if that has happened this summer.

There is a saying in football that you are either going forward or going backwards. Standing still is the equivalent of going backwards, as you can be sure there are enough teams trying hard to go forwards. **Cont on page 22**

National Lge newcomers

from facing page

Maidstone United

Former Eastleigh crowd favourite Jai Reason has left Boreham Wood after a short spell to sign for the Kent club.

Reason is one of a number of signings made by boss Jay Saunders this summer.

Among them is former Basingstoke striker Delano Sam-Yorke, who scored four goals in an eight-game loan spell for the Stones last season while at Woking.

Midfielder Harley Willard, released by Saints in the summer, has also come on board along with striker Johan ter Horst.

The latter has returned to Kent after being released by Hull City, having signed a three-year deal with the Tigers back in 2014. The 22-year-old never played a single first team game for Hull.

ter Horst previously scored 26 goals in the 2013-14 season for Maidstone's county rivals Folkestone Invicta.

One-time Weymouth defender Magnus Okuonghae - a veteran of almost 200 league appearances with Colchester - has arrived from Dagenham, where he hardly played last season.

Ins: Joe Anderson (Bromley), Josh Hare (Eastbourne Borough), Joe Pigott (Cam-



Jai Reason

bridge Utd), Reece Prestedge (Bromley), Jai Reason (Boreham Wood), Delano Sam-Yorke (Woking), Johan ter Horst (Hull), Tom Wright (East Thurrock Utd), Stuart Lewis (Ebbsfleet Utd), Magnus Okuonghae (Dagenham & Redbridge), Harley Willard (Southampton).

Torquay United

Former Eastleigh keeper Ryan Clarke has signed for the Devon club.

Clarke was Ronnie Moore's first signing as Spitfires boss after replacing Chris Todd last August, and the 35-year-old went on to appear in 11 league games for the club.

One-time Cherries defender Josh Gowling - who played for the club between 2005-08 - has joined on a free from Grimsby, while teenage keeper Neil Osborn will put pressure on Clarke after returning to Plainmoor following his release by Saints.

Saints had signed Osborn from the Gulls as a 15-year-old three years ago.

Ins: Ryan Clarke (Eastleigh), Liam Davis (Cheltenham), Jake Gosling (Bristol Rovers), Josh Gowling (Grimsby), James Gray (Glenavon), Ryan Higgins (Southport), Neal Osborn (Southampton), Jon-Paul Pittman (Harrogate Town), Jamie Reid (Exeter, loan), an Klukowski (York)

Continued on page 22

5 facts about United new boy Matic

Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic has joined Manchester United in deal believed to be in the region of £40million.

The 28-year-old becomes the third new arrival this summer after defender Victor Lindelof and striker Romelu Lukaku signed from Benfica and Everton respectively, earlier in the transfer window.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five things you may not have known about the Serbian international.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Matic was coached by his father at his first youth-team club, Vrelo, before joining several other youth teams including Obrenovac 1905, Red Star Belgrade and Partizan. However, he is not the only Matic to make it in the professional ranks. His younger brother, Uros, is a central midfielder who plays for Danish side Copenhagen. The 27-year-old started his career at Slovakian side Kosice, where Nemanja was a first-team regular, and would join his older brother at Benfica in 2013. A year later, Uros signed for Dutch side NAC Breda before joining Austrian side Sturm Graz and then Copenhagen in January 2017. He made 39 appearances in all competitions last season and also featured in the Europa League. Cont on facing page.

National Lge newcomers

from page 22

Woking

Manager Anthony Limbrick - a former Saints academy coach - has brought in Chelsea goalkeeper Nathan Baxter on a season long loan.

The 18-year-old has never made a first team appearance for his parent club, but enjoyed a loan spell at National League club Solihull Moors last season.

Former Brighton winger Joe Ward has also returned to non league football. He joined the Seagulls from Chelmsford in 2015 but never made a first team appearance. Last season he spent a short loan spell at National League champions Lincoln City.

Ins: Jason Banton (Crawley), Bobson Bawling (Crawley), Nathan Baxter (Chelsea, loan), Inihi Effiong (Barrow), Chez Isaac (Baintree Town), Richard Orlu (Dover Athletic), Josh Staunton (Dagenham & Redbridge), Joe Ward (Brighton), Jordan Wynter (Bromley)

SAINTS

Dismal snapshot

From page 21

Not many Premier League teams have made fewer signings than Saints' solitary acquisition, Jan Bednarek.

Forget the top seven (minus Tottenham, but they did finish runners-up last season) for a moment and their level of obscene spending, just look elsewhere. West Ham have brought in Joe Hart, Marko Arnautovic and Javier Hernandez. The latter two cost the best part of £40m, while Hart's wages would not be cheap.

Saints spent the best part of £30m in the summer of 2012 ahead of their return to the Premier League. The following year it was over £30m, in 2014 over £60m, in 2015 around £35m and in 2016 the best part of £40m.

They were the sums considered necessary to keep the squad competitive, in one of the most competitive sporting leagues on the planet.

This summer, so far, just £5m - though in fairness to Pellegrino he did recently say he wanted a few more new faces so that figure could easily rise substantially.

But that is for the future. At the moment, it is the here and now that we are concerned with. And Virgil van Dijk is dominating the here and now.

He is the latest in a frustrating list of Saints players to exercise 'player power', and no wonder the fans - as always, the ones to suffer - are sick of it. Totally sick, and totally tired as well.

Back in 2014, we had the ridiculous situation of Lovren, after just 12 months at the club, insisting his 'head was at Anfield' at the same time the rest of his body was contracted to Saints.

He said he wanted Champions League football. Did he realistically expect that at St Mary's? Is that the dream then chairman Nicola Cortese had sold him the previous summer as a realistic proposition?

The same, incredible summer of 2014 we had Morgan Schneiderlin angling for a move. But Ronald Koeman handled the situation well, and virtually told the Frenchman he needed to give Saints one more season.

Schneiderlin got his head together - not the easiest thing to do after he had seen the club sell five of his colleagues without putting up too much resistance to the vultures - and, after an impressive 2014/15, got his wish.

Fast forward to August 2015 and this time it was Wanyama keen to leave, just two years into a four-year contract he was only too happy to sign. Again, Koeman sweet-talked the player into giving the club one more season.

Last season, Sadio Mane had his head turned by Liverpool, again after just two (at times frustrating)



Virgil van Dijk has told Saints he wants to leave.

seasons at St Mary's. By this time, Koeman had himself walked out on Saints. Had the Dutchman still be in situ, perhaps he could have persuaded Mane to stay for another 12 months more. Claude Puel was never going to be able to do that.

Now we have van Dijk, again just two years into his St Mary's career, exercising those dreaded two words

'player power'.

Are Saints just totally unlucky with some of the foreign imports they sign? Are they just victims of their own success? And shouldn't Liverpool just sign Saints' scouting team and spare us this seemingly annual raid on St Mary's?!

Or is there more to it than that? Is there some underlying reason why

all the above - and let's not forget captain Jose Fonte and his transfer request last winter - have wanted to leave Saints in such a short space of time?

The late, great Alan Ball used to write a weekly column in the Sports Pink, right up until his death in April 2007. I used to ghost it for him and quite often Bally would rant



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Dejan Lovren got his wish to quit Saints back in 2014.



Victor Wanyama, above, and Morgan Schneiderlin, right, had to wait 12 months for their moves.

and rave about the increasing role of 'player power' and how he was glad he was out of the game as he would find it incredibly hard managing a dressing room where players (and their agents) held so much influence.

God knows what Bally would have made of Lovren, or what he would have made of van Dijk. No doubt

he would have been horrified, but sadly not surprised. So it is with most of us who have seen what the Premier League beast has mutated into, a quarter of a century after its rebranding.

Saints have to sell van Dijk now. There is no real alternative. Too much water has flowed under the bridge.

Elsewhere in this paper, Saints fans have their say on the van Dijk situation and a handful suggest leaving him to rot in the reserves.

A nice theory in principle, but it would not work. The player would still be at Staplewood, even if he was training on his own. His sheer presence, after a while, would start to grate. And sooner or later, the PFA would get involved - and the cloud over Southampton Football Club would still be there.

It would be lovely if Saints won this particular stand-off, but it is hard to see how they can. Does that make van Dijk a 'winner' if he racked up at Anfield to a hero's unveiling? Yes and no. Yes, he might have got what he wanted but at a cost to his reputation. And what if he did well at Liverpool and Barcelona wanted to sign him next summer, paying him more for the privilege. How much loyalty would he show Klopp?

Loyalty comes a long way behind money these days.

Ex-Dell striker Gordon Watson believes cash is the key motivator behind van Dijk's determination to leave. Speaking in the Echo recently, he said money had to be the overriding factor. It couldn't be a desire to regularly win trophies, as Liverpool have not won a major trophy since 2012 - and even then it was the League Cup.

It is now 27 years since the Reds were last crowned champions of England. That's an extraordinary statistic for anyone who, like me, grew up and fell in love with football in the late 70s and early 80s.

But Liverpool, despite their lack of recent silverware, are still a massive club with a huge worldwide fanbase. So are Manchester United and Arsenal, two other clubs familiar with transfer raids on St Mary's.

I have always said Saints fans should start to worry if their best players wanted to join Stoke, Watford, Crystal Palace or Burnley rather than stay at St Mary's. That would be the time to get really concerned, not when the most famous clubs in English football want to sign the crown jewels.

I still stand by that, frustrating as it is to see the star names creamed off by the elite vultures on an annual basis, and as annoying as it is to see those idolised by impressionable youngsters throw their toys out of the proverbial pram in order to get what they want.

So there you have it, an unedifying snapshot of life in the Premier League a quarter of a century after it came into being.

A league created because of greed, and in some pundits' eyes ruined by it as well.

from facing page

DIFFERENT PATH

Prior to joining Chelsea for his first spell in 2009, Matic had a trial with then-Premier League side Middlesbrough and was set to join the club after an international break with Serbia. However, talks broke down between the north-east side and Kosice before the Blues stepped in to snap up the midfielder for £1.5million. Where would his career be now if he joined Boro?

PLAYMAKER

The 28-year-old was originally signed as a playmaker by Carlo Ancelotti in 2009 but struggled to break into the first team with the likes of Germany international Michael Ballack and stalwart Michael Essien ahead of him in the midfield pecking order. However, the transfer to Benfica in 2011 saw manager Jorge Jesus change his role into a defensive midfielder, where he has become one of the most consistent players in the position ever since. Matic has shown he can still contribute in the final third of the pitch too, with long-range efforts against Everton and Tottenham in recent seasons reminding fans that he is not a one-trick pony.

REFUSED TO PLAY

Whilst at Benfica, Matic refused to play for his country under the management of Sinisa Mihajlovic, citing the fact that he did play a single minute during his five previous call-ups before returning to the squad for a World Cup qualifier against Croatia in September 2013, where he was sent off. He also threatened to quit international football in November 2015 after criticising his Serbia team-mates as they crashed to a 4-1 defeat to Czech Republic with qualification to Euro 2016 already out of the question with a fourth-placed finish in their group.

MOURINHO A FAN

The Portuguese brought Matic back to Stamford Bridge from Benfica for a fee around £20million to reinforce Chelsea's central midfield. Mourinho spoke glowingly of the Serbian on his second unveiling, saying: "He has grown as a player in Portugal and has become a fantastic all-round midfielder. I like him a lot because of his stability. He is a very stable player for someone who is still so young, only 25." When Mourinho took over at Manchester United, he was linked with the central midfielder but the move was blocked by Chelsea boss Antonio Conte. He has now fulfilled his wish at the second time of asking.



Nemanja Matic

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What next for F1 stars?

Formula One may have headed for its traditional summer hibernation, but the future for a number of its star drivers remains unclear.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at next year's market, and who might end up where in 2018.

MERCEDES

Lewis Hamilton's three-season deal expires at the end of next year. Mercedes expect him to stay, but the triple world champion has suggested on a number of occasions that his future is far from certain. Would he be tempted by a switch to Ferrari? Or could he even consider a sabbatical or retirement? The likelihood is that he will stay for 2018. As for Hamilton's team-mate Valtteri Bottas, it is probable he will be handed an extension to his one-year deal after a string of encouraging displays.

FERRARI

The market hinges on Sebastian Vettel, who is out of contract at the end of the year. Mercedes could be an option for Vettel, but it is unlikely they will want to risk pitting the German with Hamilton. For now, it seems unlikely Vettel will leave - particularly as he leads the championship.

RED BULL

Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen both have Red Bull contracts for next year. Ricciardo's deal however, expires at the end of next season. Do not be surprised if he ends up at Ferrari in 2019.

FORCE INDIA

Sergio Perez could be of interest to Williams after they failed in their pursuit of him last year. But with Force India continuing to outperform the British team, expect Perez to stay put next year. Esteban Ocon has impressed, and with the backing of a multi-year deal, it is likely he will partner Perez in 2018, too.

WILLIAMS

Lance Stroll, whose career has been bankrolled by his fashion billionaire father Lawrence, brings enormous backing to the British team. The 18-year-old has been off the pace for large parts of his rookie year, but landed a surprise podium in Azerbaijan. Williams were forced to recall Felipe Massa after ditching him in preference of Stroll. The



Lewis Hamilton

SAINTS

Why Saints need



Virgil van Dijk this week reaffirmed his desire to quit St Mary's.

The club had hoped he would reconsider, but the Dutch defender was in no mood to change his mind, with his heard set on a move to Liverpool.

Saints fans have continued to comment at length about van Dijk's actions on the Echo's website dailyecho.co.uk and on the Echo's dedicated Saints Facebook page.

Here are a selection of the views from Facebook ...

VVD stands firm well this is a total joke well let's see if SFC stands firm because if they don't every single player who has signed a long term contract then decided the grass is greener on the other side of the fence with their focus on greed nothing more will do exactly the same and will ruin any club if it is allowed to continue with greedy agents and players and their demands.

Peter Simpson

Put him on the reserves for the next five years, we can afford too and let him think there I sure he will change his mind.

Kevin Hunt

We don't need the money! Sit him on the reserves bench for the rest of his contract!

Steven Sapper

Sell him to anyone apart from Liverpool and spend money on a couple of players. Even though we know how this will play out - he will be sold on transfer deadline day and then the club will say not enough time to get anyone else. Another 70m in the board pocket.

Jamie Stone

That's fine Van Dijk, you keep this up and I hope you get stripped of the captaincy, deducted wages and I don't want you near the first team at all.

Samuel Watkins

It doesn't even matter about vvd with saints holding out on this one, it has to show other players looking to join saints that they can't just sign as a stepping stone anymore. Make him sweat till January and push on without him. Doesn't strike me as the sort of player who wants to sit on the sidelines for 5 months.

Terry Waterhouse



Virgil Van Dijk in action for Saints in the Europa League last season.

Clearly the whole situation regarding contracts needs reviewing. Maybe it should be that players cannot be sold until the last year of their contract (with a guaranteed fee to a club regardless of that) so the on sale value is about how good a player is rather than how long they've got left. In this situation players would con-

sider carefully whether they sign up. This might give some power back to the clubs and stop players signing up to use smaller clubs as shop windows. It's a work in progress but a start. Meanwhile, surely refusing to play is tantamount to breach of contract and VVD can be financially punished by not being paid?

David Mathieson

Get rid asap, I'm fed up (and can probably speak for most saints fans at this moment in time) of reading about him everyday when we should be focusing on strengthening the squad. He's becoming too disruptive now and its dragging on and on, sell him

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and use the money to buy 2 quality CBs who want to play and be a part of the club.

Simon Austin

Absolutely no point in selling him. If Saints do then it makes contracts laughable and as much use as a broken umbrella.

People saying we should cash in now - absolutely not!!

We all know we sell at Harrod's and go shopping in Poundland and a chunk of the money will somewhat just disappear. This is a matter of principle now and Saints need to set an example to clubs and players.

Virgil is refusing to participate



Virgil van Dijk in action at Stoke last season.

in the first team so effectively refusing to work, stop his wages and let him sulk, I'm sick to death of players who try to dictate to clubs.

It has to stop now and clubs need help from the FA regarding the sharks from so called bigger clubs who enjoy tapping up.

As to why he hasn't put in a transfer request because he wants to leave so desperately, he doesn't wanna lose an estimated

6mpayout from the transfer. For VVD this move affair just stinks of ££££££££££ on his part.

Jason Coombes

So bored of reading about this now in media pieces trying to 'whip it up', It's great that Saints are taking a stand. If VVD wants to spend this season sulking on the bench then that's his choice. Saints will march on regardless.

Colette Lothian

Fans turning on VVD is exactly what Liverpool want with their media agenda so we have to sell him. We need him back if only for another season.

Garry Goa

Saints have no choice - hold firm and he can rot the rest of his playing career. he money is just money - hold firm.

Ian Martin

I'm glad to see we are holding strong here. The new manager appears to be no nonsense and wants his players to be committed to the club. Not rolling over to his demands for a transfer sends a clear message to the players and other teams that we are not a feeder club. Van Dijk, you may run the risk of having your career ruined purely on principle.

Scott Lindsay

Getting really bored of reading about this now. Let him keep training on his own and I wouldn't even play him in the reserves.... Give him no football at all and, if we have to sell him, make sure it's to anyone EXCEPT Liverpool.

Jeremy Russell

Sell him but not to Liverpool under any circumstance. Till then dock his wages, give the captain armband to Davis or romeu and continue him training on his own. We cannot back down on this one. Liverpool again have caused this do not let them win with their underhanded tactics with media.

Lisa Vickers

This saga is just causing unrest within the squad. Contracts are not worth the paper they are written on. Football today at top level is all about Greed. Dump him in the reserves.

John Crates

Club should stand firm. Tell him he will not be sold an if he don't wanna play then he can train everyday and not play any matches for the club till his contract runs out.. that'll be showing players that clubs have the power.

Ants Bennett

Sorry Virgil, you committed to a legally binding contract for 6 years. Yes you can go to Liverpool in 5 years time when you are 31. In the meantime, you can train on your own and then sweep up the changing rooms and clean the players' boots - you know, the ones who want to stay and play and honour their contracts. I'm sure the next five years will fly by!

Ian Gale

What next for F1 aces?

from facing page

Carlos Sainz, 22, has impressed at Toro Rosso, but Williams must have at least one driver over 25 due to their tie-up with drinks company Martini.

McLAREN

Fernando Alonso is the other big name soon to be out of contract. Mercedes and Ferrari have both seemingly ruled out a move for the double world champion leaving Renault as his only other alternative to McLaren. Alonso has said his future at McLaren will be determined on who their engine partner is next year following Honda's troubles. Could British teenager Lando Norris replace Alonso if the Spaniard leaves? He will be handed his first audition on the second of this week's two-day test in Hungary. Toro Rosso's Sainz is another in the frame. Stoffel Vandoorne is set to stay for a second season.

TORO ROSSO

Sainz said that it is unlikely he will remain at Toro Rosso and Red Bull team principal Christian Horner claimed they are prepared to listen to offers. If Sainz moves on, Frenchman Pierre Gasly, the reigning GP2 champion, will be top



Fernando Alonso

of the list to replace him. Russian Daniil Kvyat has endured a mixed campaign, but is likely to stay at Toro Rosso next year.

RENAULT

Nico Hulkenberg signed a multi-year deal and is set to be retained, but the identity of his team-mate is under scrutiny. Robert Kubica could make a sensational comeback after partially severing his right arm in a 2011 rallying crash. Alonso is also in the frame if he chooses to leave McLaren. Either way, Britain's Jolyon Palmer, yet to score a point this season, will be moved on.

HAAS

Team owner Gene Haas confirmed last month that Frenchman Romain Grosjean and Dane Kevin Magnussen will be retained for a second year together.

SAUBER

Charles Leclerc, the runaway leader of the GP2 championship, is testing for Ferrari and is in contention for a seat at the Swiss team next year. Italian Antonio Giovinazzi, another of the Ferrari driver academy, could also be handed his chance after deputising for Pascal Wehrlein in Australia.

PINK

Ake: Why I had to quit Chelsea

CHERRIES' record signing Nathan Ake has insisted he left Chelsea for the good of his career – having been accused by Blues boss Antonio Conte of losing patience.

Dutchman Ake last month completed a £20million move to Vitality Stadium after making just 17 appearances in six years at Stamford Bridge.

Ake, who signed for Chelsea from Feyenoord in the summer of 2011, was one of three highly-rated young players to leave the Premier League champions during the summer.

Nathaniel Chalobah, who spent 12 years at the club, signed for Watford, while Dominic Solanke, one of the heroes of England's Under-20 World Cup-winning team, joined Liverpool.

In a recent interview, Conte defended his treatment of the club's starlets when he said: "Sometimes, I think the young players lose their patience very quickly – a lot of time because of



Nathan Ake.

parents or the people around them. I think the advisors aren't right.

"The first thing they should have is good patience. Trust the club. Then work very hard to know that to play at this level you must be stronger – and very good.

"Sometimes, young players think they can play easily in the first team, but that's not true. I have to pick 11 players. Not only me, every coach."

Ake played 10 times in the Premier League during a fruitful loan spell with Cherries last season before he was recalled by Chelsea in January.

Following his return to Stamford Bridge, he featured just twice in the top flight as well as playing three games in the FA Cup – but was not involved in the final against Arsenal.

Asked about Conte's comments, Ake said: "It is a short career.

"I am 22 and have had good experience of playing over the past two years and you just want to continue that.

"I understand what he said but we also know Chelsea is a big club and it is going to be difficult to come in and play straight away.

"That's why I made the decision to come here, to maybe be able to play more games and that's what

'Trailblazers are being let down'

He will forever be remembered for scoring the Premier League's first goal, but Brian Deane fears those who kick-started the revolution have been all too quickly forgotten about in retirement.

English football underwent a major transformation 25 years ago this month with the advent of its breakaway top flight – one that would morph into a multi-billion pound industry with a global reach.

Deane, then about to enter his third campaign in the division with Sheffield United, said: "We all knew it was going to be something different.

"We thought you might get five minutes on Match of the Day and a bit more exposure if you do well."

In an era before innovative social media signing announcements, clubs were still attaining coverage in unique ways, and prior to that inaugural Premier League season the Blades were thrown a Christmas party by boss Dave 'Harry' Bassett.

Bassett, who appeared on the season's first programme cover dressed as Santa Claus, was mindful his team had won just six league games combined over the past two seasons before the holiday.

"That was Harry," Deane noted. "It was good publicity for the club and it was a way of saying, 'Maybe if they think its Christmas, they'll wake up in August.'"

Gambling

No-one in the division woke up quicker than Deane on August 15, 1992. Five minutes into the curtain-raiser against Manchester United, Deane made history when he headed beyond Peter Schmeichel after gambling to reach a flicked-on Carl Bradshaw long throw at Bramall Lane.

"I always used to make a point of trying to score in the first game. You wanted to break the duck really early," the 49-year-old explained.

"For as long as the league has the format, I'll always be the first person. Some people can get sick of it, but most players would like to have been the first to score."

Deane would net the other in a 2-1 victory for Sheffield United and managed 15 in total, but the club wanted to cash in despite his desire to stay and he joined Leeds in 1993.

The striker spent four years at Elland Road yet only noticed the Premier League boom after returning with Middlesbrough in



Brian Deane during his Leeds United career.

1998 following a spell with Bournemouth.

"It was after France had won the World Cup and the league was attracting all kinds of players," Deane noted.

"I came back to Boro for £3mil-

lion but other players were going for £15-20million and you think, 'Wow, it's different.'"

Deane was different himself in that he was an Englishman that went abroad during his prime, which was a familiar trend prior

to the Premier League's inception that stopped once players reaped the top-flight riches.

"One day people will wake up and recognise the reason we haven't done well as a nation at the highest level is because we don't have players going abroad," Deane claimed.

"Until we've got players that go out and play at top clubs in Spain, Italy, France, then I feel we are always going to be behind. We're kidding ourselves it's going to be different.

"We (England) have just won the Under-20 World Cup, but we've got kids who are not going to be able to get into teams because we are spending £80-90million on players.

"The prizes are too big for managers nowadays to rely on young players; unless they're outstanding, there's no development now."

Let down

Deane is well placed to comment on the Premier League's effect after 300 appearances and 71 goals for four clubs across 10 seasons.

He accentuates the positives – the improved pitches and health and safety at grounds – but also feels players are left down by the authorities once calling it a day.

Deane went into coaching, managing in the Norwegian top flight, working with youngsters at Leeds University and Sheffield United, while also holding various advisory positions.

However, he believes more should be done to assist players who helped establish the Premier League.

"You're left to yourself, if truth be known," Deane said.

"We can talk about courses but a lot of the time that's if you understand what you want to do. There should be a support network for people who have genuine issues. There's a lot being let down."

Contributed

"There's so much money in the game and I don't know where it's going. All of these guys who have contributed to where the Premier League is now, who's looking after their welfare or thinking, 'You're part of this, what can we do?'"

"Maybe that's something that the Premier League or PFA should address. It shouldn't be every man for himself because some people get a better hand. Footballers by nature are people who want to please – that will never change – it's whether they get the opportunity to contribute."

PINK

Napoli will provide stern test for Cherries

CHERRIES will take on an Italian side with a huge European pedigree in the form of Napoli this Sunday (7.30pm).

The Serie A outfit, twice champions of their domestic league and five-time Coppa Italia winners, will pose a huge test for Eddie Howe's men with a playing style which should complement the Dorset club at the Vitality Stadium.

Theazzurri outfit were set to stay and train in Germany on Thursday following their fixtures in the Audi Cup before travelling to England a day later.

In their latest fixture, a 2-0 friendly win over Bayern Munich, Maurizio Sarri's side found the net through defender Kalidou Koulibaly and midfielder Emanuele Giaccherini, the latter having spent time in the Premier League with Sunderland.

Another notable figure who had featured in England is former Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina, the Spaniard initially joined Napoli on loan from Anfield before eventually arriving permanently at Stadio San Paolo in 2015 after a spell with Bayern Munich.

A previous home of Argentinian legend Diego

Maradona, the Italian club are currently led on the field by talismanic attacking midfielder, captain Marek Hamsik. The 30-year-old Slovakian star has been with the club since 2007.

Belgian Dries Mertens was the club's top scorer last term, the former PSV and Utrecht man netted 28 times in league action, only one goal behind Roma's Edin Dzeko.

Napoli's first league encounter comes with an away clash against Verona on Saturday, August 19 and they have drawn Nice in a Champions League play-off.

'We may never get a summer like this one!

England boss Gareth Southgate has hailed an "incredible summer" for the nation following plenty of tournament success - but knows a lot of the young talent on display still face a battle to make it at their clubs.

Southgate watched on as the England Under-20s won the World Cup and the Toulon Tournament - Saints' Callum Slattery featuring in the latter event - while the Under-19s lifted the European Championship.

Both the Under-21s and Under-17s suffered penalty shoot-out agony in their respective European Championships, the Under-21s in the semi-final against Italy and the Under-17s losing their final to Spain.

Saints winger Nathan Redmond was the unlucky man to see his spot-kick saved in the U21s' loss to Germany.

Add to that Mark Sampson leading the England Women's team to the semi-final of their own European Championships and it has been a summer to remember for England fans when contrasted to the shortcomings of the senior men's side at recent major tournaments.

Southgate admits the challenge for the Young Lions going forward is to break into their club sides to give them a platform to step-up into the senior squad in the coming years.

"It has been an incredible summer, we may never get another summer like it again where every team does so well," he said.

"From a senior perspective it is impossible to pick players if they are not playing regular first team football.

"That is the challenge for those boys - they now have to go back to their clubs and force their way into their senior teams.

"The beauty is that they have been able to show on a world stage that they are as good as kids from other parts of the world.



Callum Slattery helped England win in Toulon this summer.

"Hopefully that gives managers and clubs more belief in young English players which is a really positive message."

Southgate acknowledged the reasons why Premier League clubs in particular struggle to find room for emerging talent, but remains hopeful the successes

over the summer can change that approach.

"Our league has enormous finance which allows clubs to buy that finished product from elsewhere," he said.

"Because of the pressures of the league sometimes clubs will look for the finished product rather

than being patient with youngsters who might take a little while to learn.

"Other countries don't have the same finance so they have to put their younger players and then export them or put them into their own team.

"At the moment we have a situation where ours haven't been going in but I think summers like this both bring that debate onto the table, which is good, but will also build belief that these lads can compete against the best in Europe."

The influx of foreign stars into the English game has long been a bone of contention when it comes to the lack of success for the national side.

A UEFA report issued in January showed the Premier League has the most foreign players of any across Europe, with 69.2 per cent of squads made up from imports.

Southgate believes English players would benefit from moving abroad themselves, not only to play more football but to also learn a different culture and mature away from the pitch.

"We are seeing players go abroad on loan a bit more and on permanent deals and that is positive," he added.

"You want your players to be playing regularly at the highest possible level and if that means they are playing in one of the European leagues then great."

"We've seen it with Joe Hart and with the young players I have worked with.

"They have all benefitted from the spells they have had abroad and if you spoke to any of them they would all say it helped them mature, that the life experiences were good and they saw a bigger picture of things, so hopefully it starts to become a more regular occurrence."

Gareth Southgate supports FA Lidl Skills, football coaching for boys and girls aged 5-11.

Howe is a big fan of Maurizio

CHERRIES boss Eddie Howe expressed his admiration for Napoli manager Maurizio Sarri ahead of Sunday's clash between the teams at Vitality Stadium (7.30pm).

Howe observed Sarri, a coach credited for his organised and entertaining style, during the Italian's time at Empoli and insisted pitting his wits against the Serie A boss was something he was looking forward to.

Howe said: "It's going to be a real test for us, probably our hardest game of pre-season.

"But it is ideally timed for us to get used to the type of opposition we are going to face week in, week out in the Premier League.

"They are an outstanding team. It will be a special game. I have a lot of time for their manager, who I have seen work and built a relationship with."

Asked what Sarri was like as a coach, Howe replied: "Very calm, very relaxed, very thoughtful as well and had an air of confidence about him. The work he did tactically was really good to see.

"I learned a great deal from that trip."

Known for a slick passing style and playing out from the back, Sarri guided Napoli to second in



Eddie Howe.

Serie A during his first season before guiding them to third last season behind Juventus and Roma. They will take their place in the Champions League preliminary knockout round.

In last season's Champions League, Sarri led the Italian club to the last 16 before they were knocked out by Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Howe added: "It's no surprise for me to see him go on to such big club like Napoli and do so well.

"It's important to go and broaden your horizons, meet new people and see different ways of working.

"Although it wasn't the biggest club in the world in Empoli at the time, I was really impressed by the work that was done."

Speaking about his side, in which midfielder Emerson Hyndman is again set to miss out through injury, the Cherries boss added: "I need to make choices now.

"I want choices. I don't want the team to pick itself and that goes in all positions, so the fact everyone seems to be performing well and showing a good attitude at this stage of the season bodes well."



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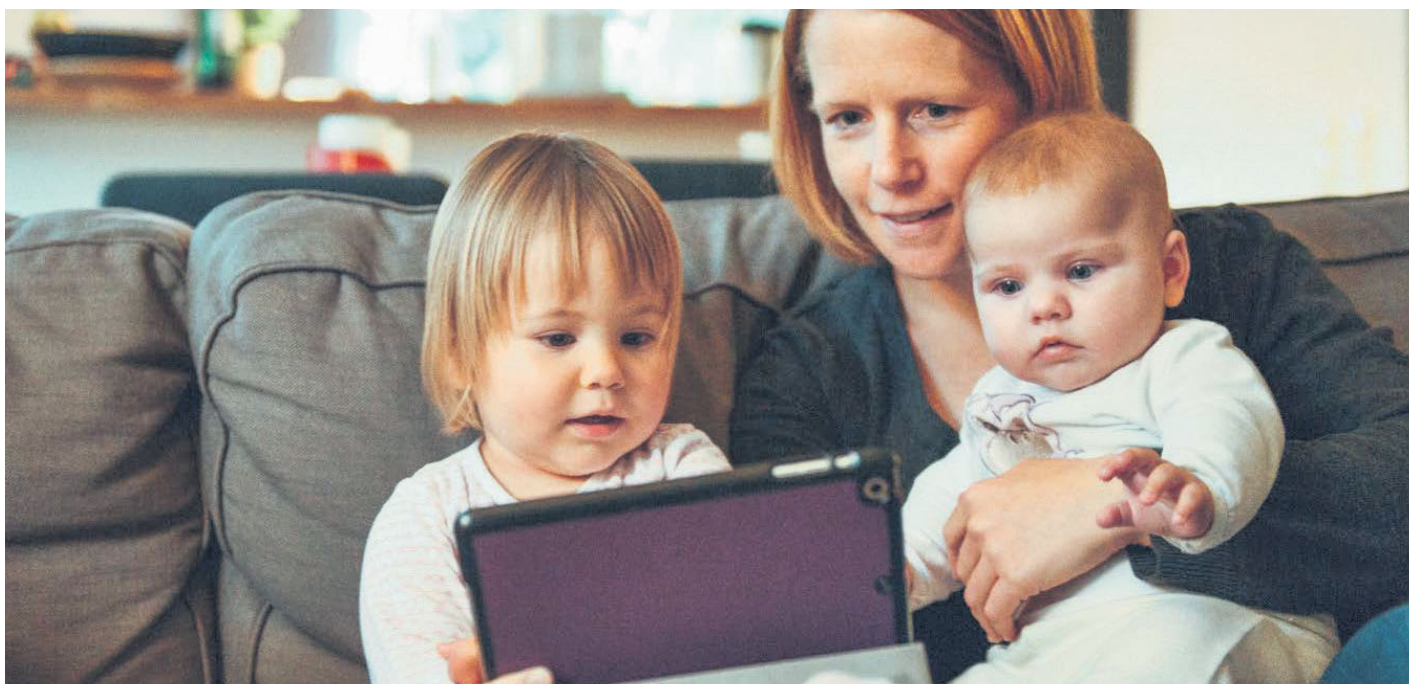
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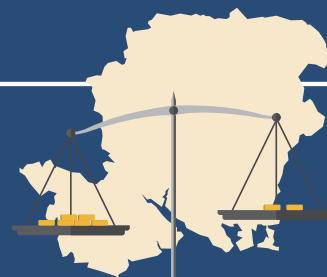
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FASTNET
FACTS

● The race is Organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) based in London and Cowes.

● The non-stop race course is 605 nautical miles (1,120.46km), and a record fleet is expected with close to 400 boats and 4,000+ crews participating. The race is the largest offshore sailing race on the planet.

● The testing course passes several famous landmarks on the south coast. Initially heading westward down The Solent, the fleet exit into the English Channel at Hurst Castle and return to the finish in Plymouth via the Fastnet Rock, off the southern tip of Ireland

● Over 29 countries from five continents will be represented by boats and crews in the race

● Places on the entry list are highly sought after: In 2013, the first 300 places were filled in less than 24 hours, in 2015 it only took 24 minutes but in 2017, 340 places were filled in an incredible 4 minutes and 24 seconds!

● First run in 1925 and held once every two years since the 1930s (apart from war times).

● Seven boats raced in the first edition in 1925 and Jolie Brise, a gaff-rigged pilot cutter, was the first winner



Ian Walker

● Jolie Brise competed in 2013 in celebration of her 100th year, finishing in 124 hours, almost a day faster than it took her in 1925. She is still the only boat to have won the Fastnet Challenge Cup three times

● In 2015 the length restriction on yachts over 100ft was relaxed to permit superyachts also participating in the Atlantic Ocean Racing Series

● In 2017, the RORC Committee agreed that the rule should continue to be relaxed so superyachts are able to enter the race

● In 2011 the Volvo 70, Abu Dhabi, skippered by Hampshire yachtman and double Olympic medallist Ian Walker set a new monohull race record of 42 hours 39 minutes (1 day 18hrs 39mins), proving that the bar is still capable of being moved

● The multihull race record was set in 2011 by French trimaran, Banque Populaire V (now raced as Spindrift 2), skippered by Loick Peyron with a total elapsed time of 32hrs, 48min and an average speed of 18.5 knots

PINK

Iconic race is set

Simon
Carter

ONE of the most iconic sailing races in the world starts off the Isle of Wight this weekend.

The 40th staging of the bi-annual Fastnet Race will see the fleet travel from Cowes to Plymouth via the Fastnet Rock, off the south west coast of Ireland.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some of the sailors and boats who will be taking part in the race, which starts on Sunday.

● It has been a good year for Gosport's Alex Thomson so far, finishing second in the Vendee Globe round the world race and securing the 24 hour solo world distance record in the process.

He will be taking part in his second Rolex Fastnet Race, having finished third in class in 2013.

This year the race is part of the IMOCA Oceanmasters World Series and Thomson, like other skippers, will be racing with an eye on competition and training.

"I always look forward to rounding the Fastnet Rock," he said. "The very first offshore race in which I was sponsored by Hugo Boss was the Fastnet and it would be great if we could win class!"

● For Lymington sailor Colley, this edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race is about unfinished business:

"In 2015 we made an error which took us into the Scilly Isles TSS on the return leg," he recalled. "We had to retire, although we were placed in the top 10 overall!"

"Everything about this race is a challenge; from the headlands, tides, variable weather, navigational obstructions to simply racing two handed against a predominantly fully-crewed fleet."

Colley has been racing double-handed or solo for several years, competing in the 2010 Royal Western Two Handed Round Britain and Ireland Race, the 2011 North Sea 1000 double-handed race - in which he finished first overall over the three legs - and in the 2015 AZAB Race, racing solo to finish fourth overall.

This year he will be sailing onboard a new boat, launched in March this year. His Sun Fast 3200RS comes with a slightly taller carbon mast, modified keel and open cockpit design.

● The Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre, based in Gosport, has fielded their fleet of Nicholson 55s in the Rolex Fastnet Race for many years.

This year's edition is likely, however, to be the last the current Ni-

The Fastnet fleet passes Hurst lighthouse on The Solent



cholson 55s participate in as the JSASTC prepare to retire their trusty yachts who have served them for over 40 years each.

The yachts have not only been used for sporting events but also training, and adventurous expeditions.

The crew for the Fastnet Race are drawn from many walks of service life, including a mix of Regular and Reserve Service Personnel from the Royal Navy, Royal Navy Reserve, the Royal Marine Reserve and a sponsored Univer-

sity student.

For several this will be their second, third or even fourth Fastnet Race while the rest will be experiencing the event for the first time.

"It's such an infamous race that I want to experience at least once. It'll be a long thrash to windward but being a Royal Navy crew I know that won't stop us having a good time," said Romsey's Tony Stanley-Adams.

Steve Treharne added: "It's an iconic race, demanding but exhilarating - I love the sense of

camaraderie during the race and the crews at the after-race party!"

● Joining forces across La Manche will be Miranda Merron and Halvard Mabire onboard their Class40, Campagne de France.

Before they came together, Merron had worked in international advertising, giving it up to pursue professional sailing and taking part in various shorthanded and fully-crewed races including the Route de Rhum, the Transat and the Volvo Ocean Race.

PINK

to sail yet again



Kirsty Hobson, above, and her fellow Army Reservists who will be competing in the Fastnet Race.

In 2009 she was navigator for the all-female team on the Open 60, Aviva, helping the team set a new outright World Record for Round Britain and Ireland.

In 2007 she raced on 40 Degrees in the Fastnet Race, finishing 32nd overall and as 1st Class40.

Mabire completed his first solo transatlantic at the age of 20 on a boat he built entirely himself, finishing third in the Mini Transat Race.

● The Royal Engineers team

- skippered by Gosport's Adam Hearn - will be competing for the Services Trophy.

"We are a reasonably experienced crew from the military and all members of the REYC. We have two first time Fastnet crew, both young soldiers," Hearn said.

"The REYC have entered every race since the Fastnet was conceived (the only yacht club to do so) and we are carrying on the tradition of entry.

"We are looking forward to the challenges the race always pro-

vides, with the Irish Sea probably the most challenging part."

● Kirsteen Donaldson, from Lockersley in Hampshire, has been racing her X332, Pyxis, since 1997, focusing on shorthanded sailing.

Since 2007 this has been with Judith Eastwood with whom she has sailed around 7,000nm two-handed - including passages to Spain, Portugal and competing in the Round Ireland Race three times.

"Since Judith moved to the US in 2011 we've been limited to one major event a year - this year it's the Rolex Fastnet Race", says Kirsteen.

"We've made it into the top 100 of the fleet and won a medallion in class so we would like to improve on that this year."

● Private Kirsty Hobson, based in Southampton, is part of the first all-Army Reservist team to compete in the Fastnet race.

Kirsty, who works as an Equestrian Estates Manager, has been a Reservist for two years.

When offered the opportunity to take part in the Fastnet race, she was very keen to learn how to sail - even though the crew have never worked together before.

Kirsty said, "This is the one organisation where you get people from all walks of life sort of thrown in together and you just get on with it.

"The Army always encourages us to embrace diversity and that's how we work.

"I am really looking forward to being able to use the skills I have learned as a Reservist and a Mariner."

Her home for the race will be the "The Osprey", a Comfortina 42 yacht which was originally owned by British Forces Germany then moved to Gosport and has been refitted specifically for the Fastnet race.

● The Fastnet Race takes place every two years over a course of 608 nautical miles (1126 km).

The race starts off in Cowes on the Isle of Wight and leaves the Solent through the Needles Channel before following the southern coastline of England down the Channel to Land's End.

After crossing the Celtic Sea, the race rounds the Fastnet Rock (known as the 'teardrop of Ireland') off the southwest coast of Ireland, travels round the Isles of Scilly and finishes at Plymouth.

The Fastnet lighthouse was the last sight of Ireland for emigrants sailing to America. It first shone its light on New Year's Day 1854.

● The race dates back to 1925 with the very first winner completing the course in 147 hours. Today, the course can be completed in under 43 hours.

In 1925 just seven boats took part, but this year 390 yachts will compete over a number of classes.

At least 27 countries are represented with Great Britain making up 58 per cent of the 2017 fleet.

Remaining boats come from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Australia, the United States of America, Korea, Japan, China, Russia, Turkey, Oman and Israel.

Olympic differences

Paris, Los Angeles and the International Olympic Committee have described the unprecedented decision to award two Games at once as a win-win-win, as it gave all parties what they most wanted. Here, the Sports Pink explains the differences in approach the two cities have taken.

THE CONCEPT

Paris' pitch played heavily on the city's beauty and history. Its key message was "Paris as an Olympic Park", promising a "compact" Games to give athletes and fans a sense of being at the centre of something magical.

Los Angeles' unique selling point was its host of world-class venues and the commercial success of its last Games in 1984, while making a big play on California's prowess in the entertainment and technology sectors.

VENUES

Most of the sports at Paris 2024 will be played in two clusters of venues: the Paris Centre Zone and the Grand Paris Zone, which is just to the north. The centrepiece of the latter is the 75,000-seat Stade de France, which will host the ceremonies and athletics. Roland Garros is the most famous venue in the centre zone, while there will be open water swimming, triathlon and surfing in the Seine.

Los Angeles 2028 will, for the most part, be played in upgraded venues from 1984, the plush new homes of the city's professional teams and the excellent facilities provided by the city's universities.

TO DO LIST

Paris has one major project to tackle and that is the athletes' village at L'Île-Saint-Denis in the city's northern suburbs. With an estimated cost of £1.5 billion, this is not a trifling matter and the claim that the land would not be available in 2028 was a key factor in Paris winning the argument that it should go first.

LA's organising committee, on the other hand, has nothing to build as things stand.

ORGANISING COMMITTEES

As successful bidding teams usually morph into organising committees, we can assume many of the faces behind the bids will stay on. For Paris, the co-chairmen were three-time Olympic canoeing champion Tony Estanguet and ex-World Rugby chairman Bernard Lapasset. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo provides multi-lingual political support.

LA's bid was fronted by multi-millionaire sports agent Casey Wasserman and LA mayor Eric Garcetti, with a who's who list of Californian business and sports aristocracy behind them. Athletics star Michael Johnson and swimming great Janet Evans were also prominent during the campaign.

BUDGET

If we have learned one thing from Olympic history it is that the price quoted will not be the final bill. Paris has suggested its total infrastructure costs will be £2.7 billion, with operational costs closer to £3 billion. LA believes it can do it all for about £4 billion, although waiting an extra four years will bring more costs.

SECURITY

Another huge variable - it is almost impossible to predict what will be happening in 2024, let alone 2028. Security looked like being one of Paris' weaknesses, as the city and France has suffered so much at the hands of terrorists. The successful security operation at last summer's European Championships eased IOC concerns.

LA has not experienced anything like the terrorism threats that Paris have had to deal with but is hardly unaccustomed to violence. The problem for LA will be numbers, as its police force is small for a city of its size.

PINK

Family first for Neymar

Neymar has sensationally left Barcelona for Paris St Germain in a world-record deal worth 222million euros (£198.6million).

Here, the Sports Pink lists five things about the Brazil striker.

1. Family first

Neymar is guided by his family. His father, Neymar Santos Sr, is his agent, is a former player himself and earned his son his first sponsorship deal at the age of 17. Neymar has a tattoo of his sister Rafaella Beckran's face on his arm, while in turn she has Neymar's eyes on hers.

2. Nearly the Real deal

He has made his name with Barcelona but could have joined Real Madrid as a 14-year-old. He travelled to the Spanish capital but said he chose the "cultural values" of growing up in his home country. He described it as "my first serious choice". Resting the pressure of moving to Europe was not always easy. Neymar Sr told the New York Times how strangers would approach him in the street and tell him to send his son overseas.

3. Never blowing bubbles

He scored his 100th professional goal on his 20th birthday in 2012. By this point, the Santos man had been the subject of interest from West Ham, with the player himself admitting he had talks with the club's hierarchy via video link-up.

4. Star of the silver screen

In June 2016, Vin Diesel said that Neymar would be starring alongside him in the action film *Return of Xander Cage*. He went on to play himself. In the film, a character played by Samuel L Jackson tries to recruit Neymar to join the National Security Agency. His fame extended to him being named on the TIME 100 list of the most influential people in the world - the only footballer on the list.

5. Sneaker freak

Neymar is a keen collector of trainers and once spent more than £14,000 on them in one shopping trip. He has his own collaboration with Nike and basketball great Michael Jordan, the 'Air Jordan v Neymar'. He described meeting the six-time NBA champion as one of the happiest moments of his life.

Neymar - why he could eat so many pies!

Neymar has become the world's most expensive player after completing his move from Barcelona to Paris St Germain.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how the 222 million euros (£200.6m) transfer fee, and the reported £520,000-a-week wages, stack up in football terms.

● Neymar's transfer fee could buy you - based on the reported initial fees paid in their most recent moves - four Mesut Ozils, two Paul Pogbas, three and a half Kevin De Bruynes and around 40 Jan Bednarek's.

● Neymar's reported annual salary with PSG equates to around £26.8million at current exchange rates. England and Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford was reportedly on wages of £20,000 a week last season, equivalent to £1.04million a year, although his contract is based on incremental increases and further bonuses for performance.

● The Neymar transfer fee would have been enough to buy Sunderland - lock, stock and barrel - twice over with £18million in change,

based on the amount reportedly paid by current owner Ellis Short in 2008.

● Neymar's reported weekly wage could have settled Northampton's 2015 tax bill of £166,000 three times over; and still have £22,000 left.

● A pie at Wigan cost £2.60 according to the BBC's 2016 Price of Football survey, meaning Neymar could treat himself to 10million of them every year and still scrape by on just over £845,000 as an annual salary.

Will Neymar deal change football?

Neymar's record-breaking 222 million euro (£200.6million) move to Paris St Germain is now complete and the Brazilian is officially the most expensive player in the history of football.

Not only has a new financial precedent been set but the scales of European competition have been unbalanced, however briefly.

Here, the Sports Pink examines some of the potential consequences of Neymar's historic move to Paris.

HOW COULD PSG AFFORD TO PAY SUCH A HEFTY PRICE?

When PSG made their interest in Neymar clear Barcelona insisted he would not be sold for a cent less than the 222m euros stipulated in his release clause.

Qatar Sports Investments, which has owned PSG since 2011, is not short on cash, originating from a nation which boasts a sovereign wealth fund of 335 billion US dollars.

The target was there to be hit and PSG were bold enough to call Barca's bluff and push through an historic move for the player who 15 years ago was still playing futsal in the streets of Sao Paulo.

BUT HOW WILL THEY SQUARE THE TRANSFER WITH UEFA?

Alarm bells are ringing over the eye-watering one-off payment, which obliterates the 105m euro (£89m) fee Manchester United paid Juventus for Paul Pogba last summer, as PSG will somehow have to account for the transfer in their UEFA Financial Fair Play submissions.

The Parisians have made a profit in recent years for FFP accounting purposes and can therefore subsidise some of the subsequent loss from the Neymar deal, although they will inevitably have



Neymar

to sell a number of players and set up more lucrative commercial deals.

To that end, worldwide superstar Neymar will help to pay his way.

SO WHO MIGHT PSG CUT LOOSE TO AVOID FFP SANCTIONS?

Barcelona, who have now lost one of the stars of their three-

pronged MSN strike force, which still contains Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, have a long-standing interest in PSG playmaker Marco Verratti but have been rebuffed at every turn so far.

The French club even teased the Catalans by posting a picture of Verratti smiling on Twitter, together with the words "Hope you're having a great day!" on Thursday as Neymar finalised his

move. Javier Pastore has conceded his number 10 shirt to Neymar and could be vulnerable, while the likes of Jese, Hatem Ben Arfa and Lucas look increasingly surplus to requirements.

COULD THE PREMIER LEAGUE FALL PREY TO A BARÇA RAID?

There is a big hole to fill at the Nou Camp and Neymar's departure could inspire Barca to look to England for a replacement.

New boss Ernesto Valverde is reportedly keen on Arsenal's Mesut Ozil, who has one year left on his contract, while the Catalans have tried and failed to sign Philippe Coutinho from Liverpool.

Their coffers have been filled and it would be no surprise if they went back to Anfield with a bumper offer for that world-class Brazilian.

WILL THE FIRST £200M TRANSFER CHANGE FOOTBALL?

Despite his abundant talent on the pitch, the key issue concerning Neymar's move to PSG is the astronomical sum of money involved.

UEFA has the power to investigate breaches of FFP and impose sanctions should it find just cause, but Europe's governing body cannot change international policy.

International players' association FIFPro is among the organisations to have expressed a concern that football is becoming "ever more the domain of a select group of rich, mostly European-based clubs", accusing FIFA of governing transfer rules that are "anti-competitive, unjustified and illegal".

Until legislation changes at the highest level, fees will continue to skyrocket.

PINK

Wembley outings for new summer signings



Alvaro Morata

The Community Shield is often the place for expectant supporters to see new faces given their first real chance to shine.

Premier League champions Chelsea face London rivals and FA Cup winners Arsenal in the curtain-raiser at Wembley on Sunday, with both teams likely to include a number of summer signings.

CHELSEA

ANTONIO RUDIGER - A tough-tackling defender, 24-year-old Germany international Rudiger - signed for £29m - will be looked upon to fill the void left by the departure of Chelsea's long-time captain John Terry.

TIEMOUE BAKAYOKO - Bakayoko, who cost £34m, excelled in the Monaco side which

clinched the Ligue 1 title over his home-town club Paris St Germain last season.

The combative 22-year-old midfielder comes in at a time when Chelsea opted to sell Nemanja Matic to rivals Manchester United.

ALVARO MORATA - With Diego Costa falling out of favour with manager Antonio Conte and told he is free to leave, Chelsea needed another out-and-out goalscorer to launch their bid at retaining their Premier League crown.

It was widely anticipated that Romelu Lukaku would rejoin the club from Everton, but he brought in the 24-year-old hot-shot from Real Madrid for £60m.

ARSENAL

SEAD KOLASINAC - Bosnia-Herzegovina international Kolasinac was a sought-after name as his contract in Gelsenkirchen ran down.

The 24-year-old was named in the Bundesliga team of the year last season despite Schalke only finishing 10th.

ALEXANDRE LACAZETTE - With the futures of both Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil still very much up in the air, Wenger needed to make a statement of intent in the market and he did so by breaking the club's transfer record to sign France striker Lacazette from Lyon for £45m.

Lacazette, 26, hit 37 goals in 45 games last season and has bagged at least 20 Ligue 1 goals in each of the last three years.

Does Shield have any bearing at all?

The Community Shield has acted as the traditional curtain-raiser to the top-flight season for over a century.

Pitting the previous season's champions against the FA Cup winners, the fund-raising event has been a mainstay of the football calendar for generations with only the odd tweak along the way.

But, ahead of Chelsea's meeting with Arsenal this Sunday at Wembley, does the result of the competition have any bearing on the success the participants enjoy during the following season?

Here, the Sports Pink goes back to the turn of the decade to see how the winners and losers have fared over the ensuing nine months.

2016 - Man United 2 Leicester 1

The Red Devils, under new boss Jose Mourinho, lifted the shield after Zlatan Ibrahimovic marked his arrival with an 83rd-minute winner.

Mourinho would guide United to the EFL Cup and Europa League but could only finish sixth in the Premier League - with City sacking Claudio Ranieri as they slumped to 12th after flirting with relegation.

2015 - Arsenal 1 Chelsea 0

Arsene Wenger's FA Cup winners saw off champions Chelsea as the Frenchman finally beat Mourinho in the 14th meeting between the pair.

Ex-Saint Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain hit the game's only goal to top a man-of-the-match display from the England international.

Arsenal would finish a distant second to champions Leicester and could not make it a hat-trick of FA Cup successes - meanwhile



Zlatan Ibrahimovic lifts the Community Shield last year.

Mourinho was sacked as the Blues' title defence flopped and they finished 10th.

2014 - Arsenal 3 Man City 0

It would be FA Cup winners Arsenal who sent out a message of intent with a convincing win over the Premier League title holders.

Roberto Mancini's City side was

weakened as players were rested following their World Cup exertions and goals from Santi Cazorla, Aaron Ramsey and Olivier Giroud won it for the Gunners.

Wenger would again capture the FA Cup with a convincing win over Aston Villa but league silverware still eluded the Frenchman, while Manuel Pellegrini's City

ended the year empty-handed.

2013 - Man United 2 Wigan 0

Life without Sir Alex Ferguson began for United with Community Shield success for new boss David Moyes.

Robin van Persie hit a brace to see off the relegated FA Cup winners, by then under the guidance of Owen Coyle.

It would prove a false dawn for Moyes, who was sacked before the end of his first campaign following a string of bad results which left United in seventh and trophy-less other than the Shield - Wigan came close to more success but lost in the Championship play-off semi-finals and the last four of the FA Cup.

2012 - Man City 3 Chelsea 2

With Wembley hosting the Olympics, Villa Park was the venue for a memorable clash as champions City ran out winners.

Fernando Torres had put Roberto Di Matteo's FA Cup holders ahead before goals from Yaya Toure, Carlos Tevez and Samir Nasri turned the tables in just 12 minutes.

City would end up as runners-up in both the Premier League and FA Cup while Chelsea sacked Di Matteo before lifting the Europa League under interim boss Rafael Benitez.

2011 - Man United 3 Man City 2

Premier League champions United were two down at half-time as Joleon Lescott and Edin Dzeko struck - but Ferguson's side rallied as Chris Smalling and Nani scored to level the game before the Portugal winger snatched a stoppage-time winner against the FA Cup holders.

City would end the season in jubilation as they piped their neighbours to the title on goal difference, after Sergio Agüero's last-gasp effort gave them a final-day win over QPR.

5 things you can't miss in the racing week ...

UP FOR THE CUP

The Shergar Cup will never win over everyone, but Ascot's executive must be well chuffed by the way things have been going of late. This unique occasion in the racing calendar is growing in popularity as jockeys from around the globe fight descend upon Berkshire. It was joy for the Rest of the World team 12 months, while Thierry Jarnet claimed the top-jockey Silver Saddle award.

FIRE UP FOR PHOENIX

Sunday's Group One at the Curragh should be a better. The six-furlong showdown for fillies and cast has attracted a strong list of entries, but most eyes will be fixed upon Aidan O'Brien's potential runners. O'Brien has won the race an astonishing 15 times, with Sioux Nation currently his leading hope. Gordon Elliott could be the man to stop the Ballydoyle juggernaut, though, as the unbeaten Beckford has been confirmed a likely runner in the Phoenix.

SWEET SENSATION

Good racing at Newmarket on Saturday, when the Sweet Solera Stakes is the highlight. The Group Three for juvenile fillies has a fine roll of honour, but recent winners have not quite set the pulse racing. To that end, officials at the headquarters of British racing will be hoping for an upturn in fortunes for a race named in homage to the 1961 Oaks and Guineas heroine.

ROSE IN BLOOM

Group Three honours also up for the grabs at Haydock on Saturday in the shape of the Rose of Lancaster Stakes. This mile-and-a-quarter affair was won in good style 12 months ago by Royal Artillery, who gunned down Scottish by a length and a quarter in the hands of Colm O'Donoghue. Haydock is sure to draw in a big crowd for its triple-header at the popular Merseyside circuit.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

A rare Tuesday evening treat for racing fans as the Give Thanks Stakes at Cork should be essential viewing. This Group Three over a mile and a half has been won by Aidan O'Brien and Dermot Weld since 2012, with both men likely to be well represented once again. Best In The World lived up to her name a year ago when she bravely held off stablemate Somehow by a neck.

FIXTURES (FLAT in capitals)

Monday: CARLISLE (evening), RIPON, SALISBURY, WINDSOR (evening)
Tuesday: CATTERICK, CHELMSFORD (evening), LEICESTER, NOTTINGHAM
Wednesday: BATH, BRIGHTON, KEMPTON (evening), PONTEFRAC, YARMOUTH
Thursday: BRIGHTON, HAYDOCK, NEWCASTLE (evening), SANDOWN (evening), WOLVERHAMPTON (evening), YARMOUTH
Friday: BRIGHTON, HAYDOCK (evening), MUSSELBURGH, NEWMARKET (evening), WOLVERHAMPTON
Saturday: ASCOT (ITV4), AYR (evening), HAYDOCK (ITV4), LINGFIELD (evening), NEWMARKET (ITV4), REDCAR
Sunday: LEICESTER, WINDSOR

Ali joins hat-trick club

Moeen Ali claimed the 14th hat-trick by an England player in Test cricket as the hosts beat South Africa by 239 runs at The Oval.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the previous 13 occasions.

BILLY BATES (v Australia, 1883)
Yorkshire off-spinner Bates claimed the first hat-trick by an Englishman en route to 7-28 as Australia were thrashed by an innings. However, Bates' playing career ended suddenly four years later when a ball hit him in the eye during a net session.

JOHNNY BRIGGS (v Australia, 1892)
Like Moeen, Briggs wrapped up the innings by taking the last three wickets, although the left-arm spinner's efforts could not prevent Australia winning the Sydney Test by 72 runs. Briggs died in 1902 aged 39 after an epileptic seizure.

GEORGE LOHMANN (v South Africa, 1896)
Surrey seamer Lohmann took 112 Test wickets at an average of just 10.75, although none arrived quicker than those taken in the second innings against the Proteas at Port Elizabeth. Lohmann finished with match figures of 15-45 but died just five years later of tuberculosis.



Moeen Ali.

JACK HEARNE (v Australia, 1899)
Hearne dismissed the notable Australia trio Clem Hill, Syd Gregory and Monty Noble with successive deliveries at Headingley to claim the first hat-trick on English soil. However, England were unable to force a series-levelling victory in the game as the match was drawn, with Australia retaining the Ashes.

MAURICE ALLOM (v New Zealand, 1930)
Allom was making his Test debut in Christchurch and achieved his hat-trick in only his eighth over. The Surrey seamer had already bowled Stewart Dempster with the second ball of the over before sending Tom Lowry, Ken James and Ted Badcock back to the pavilion with the fourth, fifth and sixth deliveries. England went on to win by eight wickets.

TOM GODDARD (v South Africa, 1938)
Off-spinner Goddard took six hat-tricks in his career, the most notable coming in Johannesburg on Boxing Day. South Africa salvaged a draw, but England won the series 1-0 after the famous timeless Test in Durban - where the tourists had to leave after nine days play to catch their boat home.

Continued on facing page

HANTS CRICKET

Hat-trick deja vu

Simon
Carter



CRICKET hat-trick have been in the news this week thanks to Moeen Ali's achievement in the Oval Test.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at Hampshire's Championship hat-tricks since World War II.

Butch White

Hampshire v Sussex, Portsmouth, August 1961

White actually bagged four wickets in five balls in Sussex's second innings as the visitors spectacularly collapsed from 179-4 to 180 all out.

Jim Parks - dad of former Hampshire wicket-keeping favourite Bobby - was the first of White's hat-trick, clean bowled.

Norman Thomson was caught by Leo Harrison before Don Smith also had his stumps re-arranged as White celebrated becoming Hampshire's first post-war Championship hat-trick taker.

Graham Cooper lasted longer than Thomson and Smith did, but not by much as he was caught by Henry Horton off White's bowling two balls later.

Derek Shackleton then dismissed Sussex's tailenders Ron Bell and Don Yates - meaning the last five batsmen had all gone for ducks and six wickets had tumbled for just a single.

Right-arm seamer White ended with great figures of 5-21 off 24 overs, setting up Hampshire's six-wicket success.

Butch White

Hampshire v Sussex, Hove, August 1962

Fast forward 12 months and there was a distinct taste of deja vu in the air down the south coast.

Yet again, White collected a hat-trick. Yet again, Sussex were the opponents. And yet again Jim Parks was one of his victims.

Instead of being White's first victim, as he was the previous year, this time he was the third after opener Denis Foreman had been trapped leg before and Ken Suttle clean bowled.

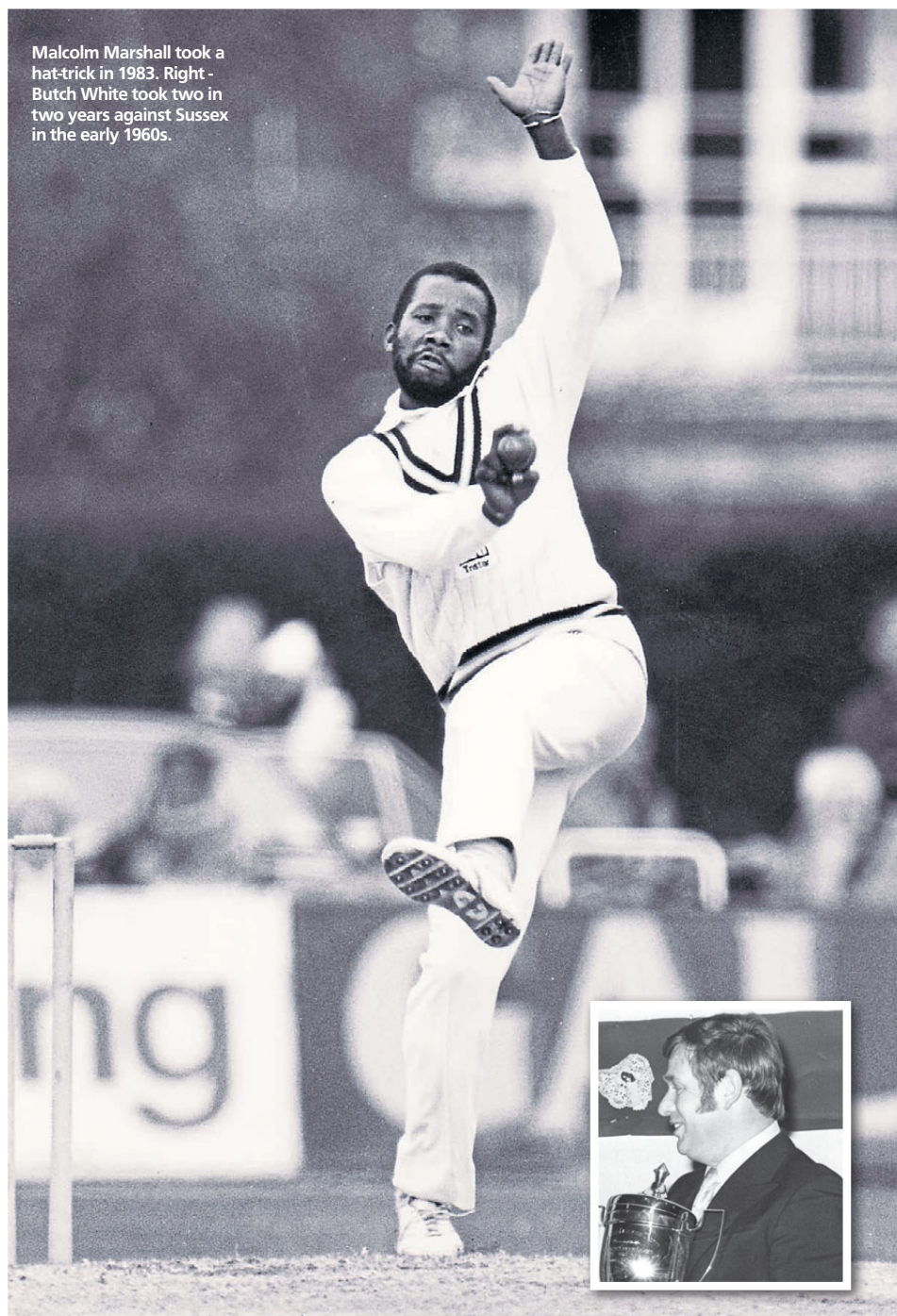
White's hat-trick reduced Sussex to 15-3, but the game was eventually drawn - thanks to Henry Horton's unbeaten century in the second innings as the visitors ended up nine wickets down.

John Holder

Hampshire v Kent, Southampton, 1972

The West Indian was in the final year of his Hampshire career when he bagged a hat-trick at the

Malcolm Marshall took a hat-trick in 1983. Right - Butch White took two in two years against Sussex in the early 1960s.



County Ground.

Kent had advanced to 106-0 when Holder had Graham Johnson caught by Bob Stephenson for 48. He then clean bowled Asif Iqbal before trapping fellow Caribbean star Bernard Julien leg before.

The were Holder's only wickets in the innings, though, as he ended with 3-106 in a drawn en-

counter.

Malcolm Marshall

Hampshire v Somerset, Taunton, 1983

The West Indian fast bowling legend emulated Butch White's achievement of 22 years earlier when he took four wickets in five balls in the west country.

To start with, there appeared little in the pitch for bowlers - Somerset opening up with 321-6 declared (Peter Roebuck 106no) before Mark Nicholas (83no) and Gordon Greenidge (70) helped the visitors to 253-3 declared.

Marshall then took over, bagging 6-46 as Somerset were skittled for 86.

First, Peter Denning was caught

HANTS CRICKET

for Butch White



Billy Taylor celebrates completing his hat-trick against Middlesex at The Ageas Bowl in 2006 - on his way to career best figures of 6-32.

by Chris Smith before Vic Marks - then an England international off-spinning all-rounder - was caught by Greenidge first ball.

Tailender Mark Davis can't have felt too confident walking to the crease to face Marshall on a hat-trick, and so it proved as he was clean bowled. Two balls later, Stephen Booth had his stumps rearranged as well. The game was

still drawn.

Kevin Shine

Hampshire v Lancashire, Old Trafford, 1992

A sensational performance by seam bowler Shine set up a crushing Hampshire victory that had never remotely looked like being on the cards.

Batsmen had dominated the first three innings - Kevin James (98), Tony Middleton (73) and David Gower (74) helping Hampshire to 349-5 declared before the hosts replied with 322-6 declared.

Middleton compiled an undefeated 138 as Hampshire defeated again on 316-4 second time around.

Lancashire progressed to 156-

2 before Shine promptly bagged eight wickets in only 38 deliveries.

Graham Lloyd, Warren Hegg and Ian Austin fell in successive balls, and Shine then equalled White and Marshall's achievements by taking a fourth wicket in five deliveries when he snared tailender Peter Austin.

Shine, who had never taken more than five wickets in an innings before, ended with 8-47.

Chris Tremlett

Hampshire v Nottinghamshire, Trent Bridge, 2005

Tremlett's hat-trick helped seal a thrilling win for Shane Warne's men in the midlands.

Warne has asked Notts to chase 275 for victory after declaring Hampshire's second innings on 220-4.

It seemed that would backfire as the hosts progressed to 250-4 in reply.

But Chris Read was stumped off Warne's bowling and Tremlett removed dangerman David Hussey for 64 to raise Hampshire hopes.

The Southampton-born fast bowler then raised them even further by claiming three wickets in as many balls - those of Mark Ealham, Graeme Swann and Greg Smith - with the hosts on 261.

Four wickets had tumbled for no runs when Warne dismissed Ryan Sidebottom, and Hampshire had won by 14 runs.

Hampshire completed the double in the last game of the season, but Notts still won the top flight title with Warne and co runners-up.

Billy Taylor

Hampshire v Middlesex, Ageas Bowl, 2006

Middlesex started badly when they lost Andrew Strauss to the third ball of the day bowled by James Bruce.

They had recovered to 50-1, though, before Taylor ripped through the rest of their top order.

He trapped Ed Smith leg before and Jon Dalrymple was caught by wicket-keeper Nic Pothas three balls later.

That was, however, only a tasty scene-setter for his hat-trick.

Nick Compton was caught by John Crawley for a duck, Paul Weekes was clean bowled, and Ben Scott likewise.

In the blink of an eye, Middlesex were 52-6 and Taylor had five wickets. He was to end with a career best 6-32 as the visitors were routed for 98.

Piling on the agony, Nic Pothas scored a century as Hampshire replied with 462.

Though Strauss hit 141 as Middlesex managed 344 second time

from facing page

PETER LOADER (v West Indies, 1957)

Surrey quick Loader secured England's first post-war hat-trick at Headingley, bowling John Goddard and having Sonny Ramadhin caught by Fred Trueman. Roy Gilchrist then had his stumps rearranged as Loader took 6-36 to help England win by an innings and five runs.

DOMINIC CORK (v West Indies, 1995)

Cork sent the Old Trafford crowd into raptures as he induced Richie Richardson into playing on before pinning Junior Murray lbw. Carl Hooper then missed a straight one and was given leg-before.

DARREN GOUGH (v Australia, 1999)

England needed victory in the fifth Test at Sydney to draw the series and Gough gave them a chance by having Ian Healy caught behind, bowling Stuart MacGill with a yorker and then bowling Colin Miller. However, MacGill had the last laugh as he took 7-50 in the fourth innings to secure a 96-run win for Australia.

MATTHEW HOGGARD (v West Indies, 2004)

England's 2004 tour of the West Indies is primarily remembered for Steve Harmison's remarkable spell of 7-12 and Brian Lara's unbeaten 400. In between those feats Hoggard registered a hat-trick in Barbados, having Ramnaresh Sarwan caught at



Stuart Broad

point, Shivnarine Chanderpaul trapped lbw and Ryan Hinds held at second slip.

RYAN SIDEBOTTOM (v New Zealand, 2008)

England lost the first Test in Hamilton, but Sidebottom eventually helped them bounce back and win the series with 24 wickets. Three of those came in as many deliveries in the opener, as the left-hander had Stephen Fleming and Mathew Sinclair brilliantly held by Alastair Cook before trapping Jacob Oram lbw.

STUART BROAD (v India, 2011)

The only Englishman with two Test hat-tricks. Broad had MS Dhoni caught at second slip, Harbhajan Singh given lbw despite an inside edge and bowling Praveen Kumar.

STUART BROAD (v Sri Lanka, 2014)

Broad repeated the feat three years later, snaffling Kumar Sangakkara with the last ball of one over before having Dinesh Chandimal caught at slip with his first ball of the next. Shaminda Eranga nicked the next delivery, although Broad did not realise he had taken a hat-trick - nor did the crowd - until an announcement was made by the Headingley announcer.

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HANTS CRICKET



Third home loss in a row

Hampshire 168-6 lost to Essex 169-6 by four wickets

GEORGE Bailey hit the highest T20 score of his career - but could not stop Hampshire sliding to a third successive home defeat.

The Australian's unbeaten 89 surpassed last season's 76 against Hampshire for Middlesex as his career-best in the shortest format.

It is only the fourth time he has reached double figures in ten T20 innings this season and it helped propel Hampshire to 166-6 - their second highest total at West End in this year's Natwest T20 Blast.

But Hampshire still slid to another Ageas Bowl loss after Adam Wheater blasted a 26-ball fifty on his return.

After several protests from James Foster over a 'six' that was not given, Essex began the final over needing just five and reached their target with two balls to spare.

Essex were soon ahead of the rate. Wheater capital-



George Bailey (Dave Vokes)

ised on the short boundary, peppering the western berm with successive sixes over mid-wicket against Dawson at the end of the fifth over, which cost 23.

Essex (68-1) were well ahead of Hampshire (51-2) at the end of the powerplay, which also included one of Wheater's two maximums against Kyle Abbott.

All 94 of Wheater's runs in this season's Blast have come against Hampshire. The last of his four sixes was remarkable, a top-edged pull over fine leg.

Bailey hit Hampshire's only two sixes, against Ashar Zaidi and Mohammad Amir, but Essex responded with six - including four in the powerplay - before clinching their third win in spite of some poor fielding.

Bailey and Rilee Rossouw (36) shared 54 in 45 balls after James Vince and Alsop were dismissed in the first two overs from the Pavilion End.

But Rossouw was injured running a quick single before giving slow left-arm Zaidi a return catch with Hampshire 82-3 at halfway.

Rilee and Carbs are hamstrung



Ryan McLaren in action for Hants

HAMPSHIRE are without hamstrung duo Rilee Rossouw and Michael Carberry ahead of tomorrow's return to Specsavers County Championship action at home to Lancashire.

Rossouw was injured during last night's T20 Blast defeat and Carberry has missed the last few games with a similar injury.

But Liam Dawson is back for third-placed Hampshire's first Championship game since having the better of a draw against Surrey at The Oval a month ago.

Second-placed Lancashire are

a point above Hampshire with a game in hand.

They have only had one game since beating Hampshire by an innings and 30 runs in June, a draw against lowly Warwickshire more than five weeks ago.

Ryan McLaren is expected to play his first game at West End since being released by Hampshire, having helped Lancashire stay in contention for a T20 Blast quarter-final with a four-run win at Leicestershire last night.

McLaren is enjoying another excellent Championship season,

having taken 38 wickets at 31.55 and scored 802 runs at 36.45 for his third county.

Hampshire (possible): Adams, Dawson, Vince, Bailey, Ervine, McManus, Holland, Berg, Abbott, Crane, Edwards.

● Hampshire are through to the Second XI County T20 finals at Arundel on Thursday.

They face north group winners Yorkshire in the opening semi-final at 10.30am.

Sussex play Lancashire in the second semi-final.

Topley and Taylor are injured again

Echo Reporter

HAMPSHIRE have received a double injury blow with Reece Topley and Brad Taylor set for extended spells on the sidelines.

Topley has received another injury setback after being diagnosed with a stress fracture of the back for the fourth time in his career.

The 23 year-old has been restricted to 15 games in his season and a half with Hampshire, including just three first-class matches, in which he has taken two wickets at 89 apiece.

He suffered a broken hand on debut and also had back and shoulder trouble before his latest injury.

Hampshire confirmed the news in a statement on Thursday.

It said: "Reece will undergo further tests and consultation over the coming weeks which will help determine the estimated recovery time for the injury and further updates will be provided in due course."

Before Thursday's win against Middlesex at Lord's, Topley tweeted: "I'm gutted about my current situation. I will do all in my power to recover from this set back. Wishing the lads all the best for the match!"

Taylor, who three years ago became Hampshire's youngest player since 1867, could also be out for the rest of the season after injuring his ankle in a Second XI fielding practice session.

The 20-year old off-spinning all-rounder, who made his fifth first-class appearance in the emphatic County Championship defeat against Lancashire at Old Trafford in June, was preparing for a washed-out T20 match with Surrey IIs when the accident occurred.

"It was a simple fielding pick-up



Reece Topley in action earlier this season (Picture: Neil Marshall)

and throw drill," explained Hampshire's Head of Player Development Charlie Freeston.

It's the second time Taylor, who captained England YCs at the last

ICC Under-19 World Cup, has been sidelined with ankle trouble.

Early last season he damaged ligaments in a freak fall on the steps leading down to the main Ageas

Bowl outfield.

"It's the other ankle this time, he's having an MRI scan in the next day or so," added Freeston.

HANTS CRICKET



Charlie's ready for Kia Super League

Simon
Walter



Not so long ago, Hampshire teen-ager Charlie Dean was collecting Charlotte Edwards' autograph.

Now the 16 year-old is preparing for the Kia Super League season as a member of the Southern Vipers squad skippered by the former England captain.

"I've always looked up to her so it's amazing and a bit surreal to be playing with her now," smiled Charlie, an off-spinning all rounder who has just completed her GCSEs at Portsmouth Grammar School.

"I used to run around the boundary to get her signature as a kid after the England games that we always used to go to."

Edwards is aiming to lead the Vipers to a successful defence of the inaugural KSL title they won last year.

"She's great, really supportive and is helping me on my journey through cricket," continued Charlie, who is from Havant.

One of the new faces in the Vipers squad, Charlie has replaced Ramsey's Katie George as its youngest member.

The Vipers are without Lydia Greenway and Sara McGlashan this year but New Zealand's Suzie Bates has returned and new signings include ex-Proteas captain Mignon du Preez, West Indies teenager Hayley Matthews and Danielle Wyatt, a member of England's victorious World Cup squad.

"It's amazing to learn from what they have to offer," added Charlie.

"They're a great bunch of girls to train and play alongside."

Charlie began playing cricket through her dad Steve, a former Havant CC and Minor Counties player with Staffordshire.

"I joined in with the boys when he dragged me down to his cricket club's nets and have done ever



Southern Vipers' Charlie Dean (Dave Vokes Photography)

since," she said.

"I've developed my own style but try to play as technically correct as I can."

Charlie has represented Hamp-

shire since she was ten and last summer captained the U15s to victory in the Royal London County Cup final.

She took five wickets on her de-

but for PGS boys 1st XI earlier this season, captains Hampshire U17s as an under 16 and is Hampshire Women's leading wicket-taker this year (18 at 13.6).

Denning: Charlie's in squad on merit



Nick Denning (Pic: Dave Vokes)

HAMPSHIRE head coach Nick Denning says 16 year-old Charlie Dean is not in Southern Vipers' squad 'to make up the numbers'.

Denning has been impressed with what he has seen of the Havant youngster since she was called up to the Vipers' Regional Development squad at the end of last season.

He said: "She's looking good and learning very quickly. She works hard and is very coachable, which helps so much."

"You can see a progression. She's a very different player to

where she was, even in October. "She's not here to make up the numbers, she's certainly here on merit."

"There aren't many girls around who spin the ball as much as she does."

"She'll come more into the reckoning when we need more slow bowlers."

Youth is a feature of the Vipers squad as they aim to defend their title.

"We're obviously more experienced in T20 cricket but our average age is a little younger with the likes of Hayley Matthews and Tara

Norris only 19," continued Denning.

"It would be lovely to repeat last year but I think the competition's going to be stronger."

Southern Vipers squad: Edwards (captain), Farrant, Wyatt, Brindle, Bates, Matthews, Adams, George, Smith, Burt, Norris, Collis, Rudd, Dean, Du Preez.

Fixtures

August 10: Western Storm (h), 15: Loughborough Lightning (a), 20: Surrey Stars (h), 23: Lancashire Thunder (a), 26: Yorkshire Diamonds (h, Arundel).

2017 results & fixtures

APRIL

2-4 Cardiff MCCU (h) FR
Hants 289 (Carberry 100) & 271-6d (Vince 90) drew with Cardiff 98 & 110-2.

7-10 Yorkshire (a) CC1
Yorkshire 273 & 187 (Abbott 7-41), Hants 141 & 321-6 (Adams 72). Hants won by 4 wickets

14-17 Middlesex (h) CC1
Middlesex 456 (Wheal 4-98) & 278-9 (Abbott 5-59), Hants 438 (Rossouw 99, Carberry 98). Drawn.

21-24 Yorkshire (h) CC1
Hants 455 (Vince 147, Berg 99no), Yorkshire 231 (Berg 4-62) & 399-6 (Abbott 3-65). Drawn

27 Kent (a) 50L
Kent 258, Hants 260-4 (Alsop 112no). Hants won by 6 wickets.

30 Essex (a) 50L
Essex 304-7, Hants 279 (Vince 68, Bailey 63). Hants lost by 25 runs.

MAY

3 Middlesex (h) 50L
Middlesex 295 (Gubbins 114, Topley 4-68) beat Hants 146-7 (Bailey 52no) by 89 runs (D/L)

7 Gloucestershire (h) 50L
Hants 239-3 (Vince 89*) beat Gloucs 237 (Dawson 3-30) by 7 wickets

10 Somerset (a) 50L
Hants 250-6 (Rossouw 156) beat Somerset 249 (Berg 3-44) by 4 wickets

12 Glamorgan (h) 50L
Hants 332-6 (Vince 178) lost to Glamorgan 334-7 (Crane 3-69) by 3 wickets

14 Surrey (a) 50L
Hants 271-8 (Bailey 145no) lost to Surrey 238-2 by 66 runs (D/L)

17 Sussex (h) 50L
Match abandoned

19-22 Essex (a) CC1
Essex 360 (K Abbott 5-58) beat Hants 115 & 148 by an innings and 97 runs.

26-29 Somerset (a) CC1
Hants 162 & 293 (Carberry 51) beat Somerset 197 & 168 (Crane 5-40) by 90 runs

JUNE

2-5 Warwickshire (h) CC1
Hants 515 (Adams 166, Ervine 203) beat Warks 254 & 167 by an innings and 94 runs

8-11 South Africa A (h) FR
South Africa A 370-7d & 185-1d beat Hampshire 185 & 119 by 251 runs.

19-22 Lancashire (a) CC1
Hants (395 & 168) lost to Lancs (593) by an innings and 30 runs

26-29 Somerset (h) CC1
Hants 211-9d & 96-5d drew with Somerset 147 & 88-8

JULY

3-6 Surrey (a) CC1
Hants 648-7d, Surrey 483 & 166-3 (fo) Draw

7 Glamorgan (a) T20 Won by 22 runs
12 Sussex (a) T20 Won by 19 runs

14 Middlesex (h) T20 Won by 29 runs
20 Sussex (h) T20 Lost by 6 wickets

21 Essex (a) T20 Lost by 7 wickets
23 Surrey (h) T20 Abandoned

26 Somerset (a) T20 Lost by 14 runs
28 Gloucestershire (a) T20 Won by 24 runs (D/L)

AUGUST

1 Kent (h) T20 Lost by 5 runs
3 Middlesex (a) T20 Won by 6 wkts

4 Essex (h) T20 Lost by 4 wickets
6-9 Lancashire (h) CC1

10 Glamorgan (h) T20
11 Kent (a) T20

18 Somerset (h) T20
22-25 T20 QF

SEPTEMBER
2 T20 Finals Day
5-8 Surrey (h) CC1

12-15 Middlesex (a, tbc) CC1
19-22 Essex (h) CC1

25-28 Warwickshire (a) CC1
KEY: CC1 - Specsavers County Championship, 50L - One-Day Cup, T20 - T20 Blast

LOCAL CRICKET



Hants fail to make cut

Hampshire Seniors' finished a disappointing fourth in their ECB 50-plus County Championship group and failed to make the cut for the last 16 national phase of the competition.

Skipper Chris Wheeler led the way with 417 runs, scoring the side's only century of the season against Dorset and making two other 90s.

Basingstoke North Hants all-rounder Keith Harsham also shone, but a single-wicket defeat by Devon, who won after being 88-6 chasing 186, eventually cooked Hampshire's goose.

Cornwall won the south-west group, but runners-up Dorset – for whom Tim Cowley had a superb all-round match against Hampshire – went through to the last 16 but, minus former Essex captain Paul Pritchard, bowed out to Shropshire in the knockout round.

Hampshire 50s results –
Wiltshire 220 (Haines 55, Ramsey 52, Harsham 3-40, Taylor 3-48)
Hampshire 223-6 (Harsham 64, Day 62, Trestrail 41)
Hampshire won by four wickets.
Cornwall 243 (McKenna 79, Stevens 75, Adams 4-41)



Chris Wheeler

Hampshire 224 (Wheeler 90, Trestrail 30)
Cornwall won by 19 runs.

Hampshire 186 (Harsham 59, Taylor 40, Wheeler 29)
Devon 187-9 (Taylor 3-31)
Devon won by one wicket.

Hampshire 265-6 (Wheeler 99, Trestrail 53, Doust 51)
Somerset 215-9 (Hogg 72, Poulter 3-38)
Hampshire won by 50 runs.

Dorset 263-9 (Ryall 87, Pritchard 58, Cowley 51)
Hampshire 235-9 (Wheeler 103, Harsham 29, Cowley 5-55)
Dorset won by 38 runs.

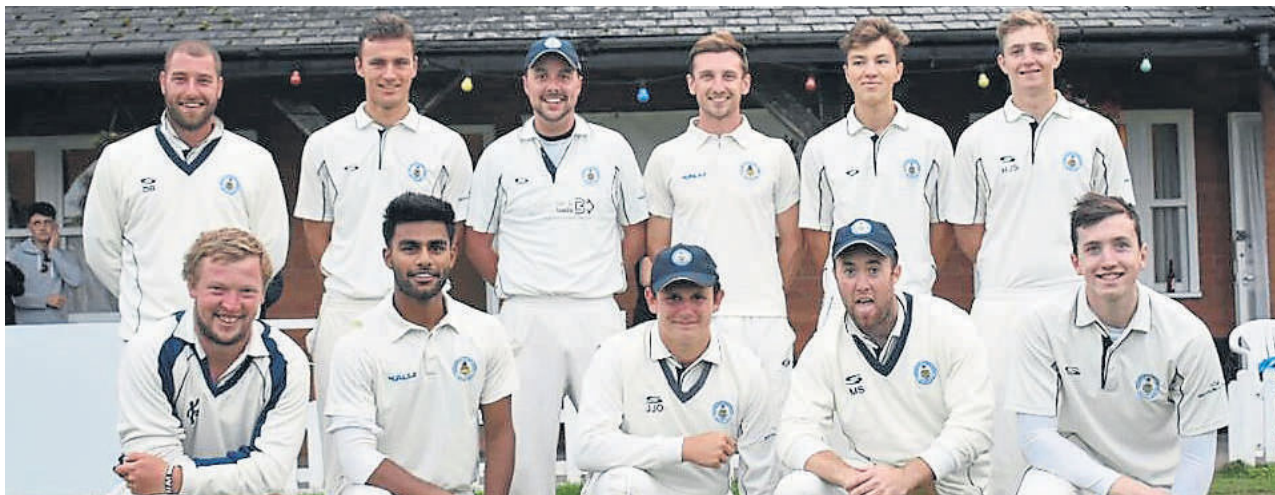
Channel Islands 251-6 (Jenner 85, Clapham 60)
Hampshire 256-4 (Nurse 70, Wheeler 61, Harsham 51, Doust 34)
Hampshire won by six wickets.

Isle of Wight 156-4 (Mew 60, Bartlett 37, Wheatley 3-37)
Hampshire 157-3 (Harsham 61*, Adams 40)
Hampshire won by seven wickets.

● Hampshire 50s play an Australian Vets XI at Hursley Park on Monday, 1pm.

● Hampshire Seniors will face Northants or Oxfordshire in the opening knockout round of the National Sixties Championships at Burridge on Tuesday, 1pm.
Seniors team is: Geoff Beale, Jon Floyd, Mike Swain, Terry Morton, Iain Brittan, Keith Harsham, Chris Yates, Chris Wood, Andrew Yorke, Michael Ballands, Steve Mitchell. 12th man Rick Marston.

Basingstoke land first silverware of summer



Basingstoke & North Hants. Back (from left): Dan Belcher, Brad Neal, Martyn Hames, Lawrence Benghe, Ash Neal, Harry Smith Front: Chris Jolley, Nitin Mathew, Joe Oates, Mitch Stokes, Matt Deadman (Picture: Neil Smith)

Basingstoke & North Hants have their first silverware of the season in the May's Bounty trophy cabinet after winning the Don Lynch Aylward Cup this week.

They beat Thames Valley League outfit Cove by 16 runs at Hartley Wintney – the long standing midweek competition being played on a 15 eight-ball over basis.

"It's great to win our first of the season and hopefully this will give us the confidence to move on and secure the biggest prize we can get – and that's the Premier League Division 1 title," said skipper Mitchell Stokes.

"This season is all about winning a place in

the Premier Division in 2018.

"We've been in Division 1 four years now, never finishing higher than third, so it's high time we moved on."

Basingstoke went into today's round 14 programme sharing the SPL1 leadership with Calmore – each club had 175 points – but next Saturday promises to be a crunch one for Stokes and his team-mates.

"Bournemouth at Chapel Gate will be an intriguing one, crucial to both sides, especially us as we look to have a potentially harder run in than Calmore, particularly as our season ends at Hook & Newnham Basics – not the

easiest place to go and win a championship," Stokes added.

Dan Belcher (68) was man of the match as Basingstoke posted 151-6 (Joe Oates 31).

Midway through their reply with Nick Farr (62) and Stan Marisa (40) going well, Cove (at 115-2) appeared to be on top, but Basingstoke gradually dragged it back.

Teenage off-spinner Ash Neal conceded only two runs off the penultimate over before Cove finished 16 runs adrift at 135-9.

Basingstoke & North Hants host their second Serious Cricket 50-over Challenge match

Charlie is the darling!

Mike
Vimpany



A half-century by Charlie Gwynne set up Wickham's 16-run win over Hursley Park in the Winchester & District CA Igglesden Trophy T20 final at The Quarters.

Wickham slipped to 15-2, but Gwynn (50) and Nick Doubell (39) steadied things with a near century stand as Wickham's 142-7 proved too many for Hursley Park.

Responded

The hosts responded with a 56-run start by Joe Theobald (30) and Australian Jack Gilbert (21), but despite being 81-1 at one point gradually fell behind the clock.

Zimbabwean left-hander Boswell Chapungu (29) gambled on going for the big hit instead of working one's and two's as Hursley fell short at 126-3, Charlie Gwynn clinching his MVP award by taking 2-23.



Wickham, Igglesden Trophy winners Back (from left): Toby Mitcheson, Nick Doubell, Alex Reidy, Greg McKenzie, Nick Moreland, Jimmy Hawkings. Front: Peter Gwynn, Chris Martin, Charlie Gwynn, Andy Gwynn, and James Martin.

LOCAL CRICKET



Havant suffer narrow national T20 defeat

Havant bowed out of the ECB National Club T20, losing by 14 runs to Wimbledon – but put up a creditable performance against the powerful Surrey Championship club.

Last year's Southern Premier League T20 winners bowled and fielded well at Beckenham, pulling Wimbledon back from 69-4, but were unable to shift Matthew Spriegel (29).

The former Northants and Surrey cricketer held their innings together,

losing five partners before making way for a critical 27-run ninth-wicket stand, which hoisted the Wimbledon score to a respectable 125, left-arm spinner Steve Matthews taking 3-24.

Collapsed

Despite a flying start when Stu Ransley (20) took 14 runs off Spriegel's opening over, Havant collapsed from 45-2 (Josh McCoy 22), losing five wickets for 30

runs before a valiant effort by Chris Morgan (26) took their final score to 111, 14 runs adrift.

Wimbledon went on to defeat Tunbridge Wells in the group final and qualify for the last eight.

Havant's defeat was the eighth in a row suffered by a Southern Premier League club in the ECB Club T20.

No local club has managed to win a game in its since Bournemouth carried off the trophy in 2009.

CD1 promotion race enters final furlong

Mike
Vimpany



If the weathermen got it right, the County Division 1 promotion race – stalled by rain for the past fortnight – should have headed into the home straight this weekend.

Five clubs were set for a sprint to the tape – with a mere 13 points separating them going into the final month of the season.

Favourites all along, Portsmouth & Southsea led with 219 points, ten ahead of Longparish and Lymington (both 209), and 13 clear of fourth placed Ryde.

Outsiders Ropley were tucked in behind.

Remaining games (including today) –

Portsmouth & Southsea (219 points): Ryde (h), OTs & Romsey II (a), Burridge II (h), St Cross Symondians III (h).

Longparish (209): Burridge II (a), St Cross Symondians III (h), Salisbury Athletic II (a), Rowledge II (h).

Lymington II (209): Bishops Waltham (h), New Milton II (a), Fareham & Crofton (h), Hook & Newnham Basics II (a).

Ryde (206): Portsmouth & Southsea (a), Shrewton (h), Ropley (a), Bishops Waltham (h).

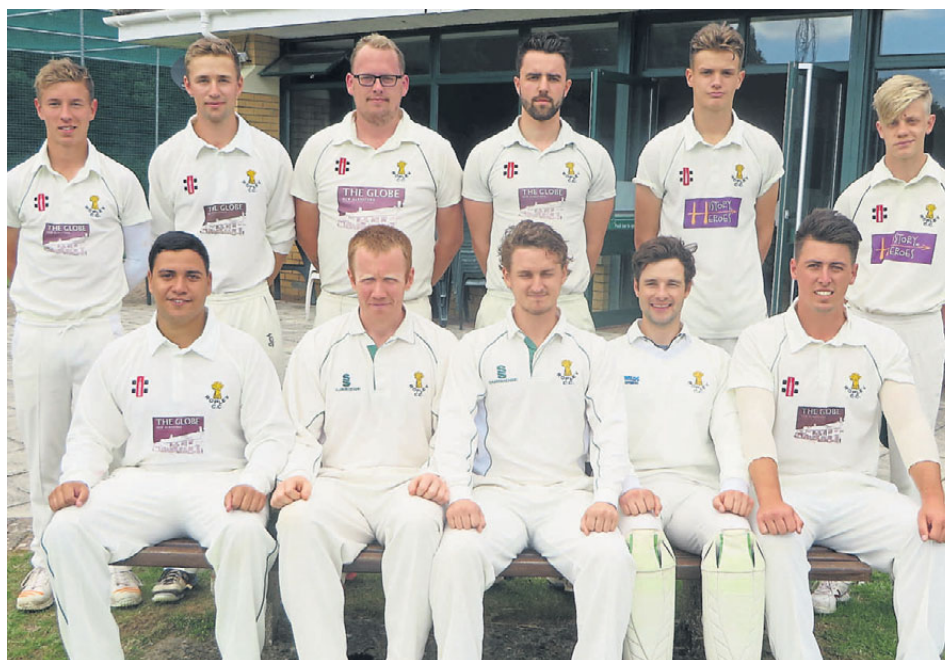
Ropley (194): Fareham & Crofton (h), Ventnor II (a), Ryde (h), OTs & Romsey II (a).

Longparish opener Will de Cani is optimistic the Test Valley village club can achieve a remarkable third successive promotion which began from County Division 3 North.

"But I think it's Portsmouth & Southsea's title to lose," he believes.

"We thrashed them earlier in the season, but they were ten points ahead going into today's match and if they beat Ryde it will be difficult for anyone to catch them."

De Cani also thinks Lymington



Ropley. Standing (from left): Jimmy Hawkins, Robert Smith, Seb Newens, Ed Stennett, George Wickens, Joe Austin. Front: Myles Greenwood, Tom Wood, Alexander Stogdon, Alex Spencer, Jack Ireland.

II, with their high powered batting line-up, are a major threat.

"They've got some really strong players and if someone like Billy Quigley or Terry Crabb comes off, they are going to score a lot of runs," he forecast.

Whether Lymington want to go up – and reclaim the Southern Premier League Division 3 spot they lost on the final day of last season – remains to be seen.

Alongside making big scores and taking wickets, Quigley, their influential Melbourne based all-rounder, is hugely involved in coaching Lymington's young-

sters.

If Lymington seconds were to go up, current SPL regulations would preclude them re-hiring Quigley – or any other overseas player – to the detriment of their thriving colts section.

Ryde, in fourth spot prior to visiting Portsmouth & Southsea, may also be reluctant to dip their toes into Premier League cricket so soon after their 2016 debacle.

They managed to win only one of their 15 SPL3 matches last season and, with much the same squad of players, something similar could easily happen again.

Fifth placed Ropley, with Ryde still to play, may need the lead pack to experience a few unexpected results if they are to gate crash the promotion party.

Ropley were scheduled to host Fareham & Crofton today, with Western Australian teen Reece Abrams desperate for a return to action for the visitors.

He broke a bone in his right hand at Hythe four weeks ago and, despite being fit again, hasn't played due to the wet weather. At least the 17-year old has put his free time to good use – by learning to bake cakes!

Paris and LA set to stage third Games

Paris and Los Angeles are expected to become hosts of the Olympics for a third time each, in 2024 and 2028 respectively.

The pair will join London in becoming the only cities to stage three summer Games.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the previous occasions Paris and Los Angeles have been the centre of the sporting world.

PARIS 1900

Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics was born in Paris, and his home city staged the second Games after Athens four years earlier. No opening or closing ceremonies were held, but nearly 1,000 athletes competed in 19 different sports and women took part for the first time. Motorcycle racing, ballooning, cricket and underwater swimming were some of the unusual events which took place.

PARIS 1924

Paris became the first city to host the Olympics twice. They were the last Games held under the presidency of Coubertin and the Olympic motto 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' ('Faster, Higher,



Carl Lewis

Stronger') was born. 'Tarzan' swimmer Johnny Weissmuller claimed three golds in the pool and British runners Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell won on the track – their stories later depicted in the 1981 movie Chariots of Fire.

LOS ANGELES 1932

Los Angeles had a free run to stage the 1932 Olympics, but the Games were held during the Great Depression and travel costs were an issue. There were fewer than half the competitors at Amsterdam in 1928, although China (with a single athlete) competed for the first time. The victory podium and an Olympic village were seen for the first time, although male and female athletes were housed in different areas of the city.

LOS ANGELES 1984

Following the American-led boycott of the 1980 summer Olympics in Moscow, 14 Eastern Bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, Cuba and East Germany, boycotted the Games. American Carl Lewis was the star of the Games with golds in 100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and long jump, while Sebastian Coe, Daley Thompson, Fatima Whitbread and Zola Budd also made headlines.

PINK

Moody's 36-ball ton

Australian Tom Moody holds the record for the least amount of balls required to win the Walter Lawrence Trophy since the rules were changed in the mid 1980s.

Until then, the award went to the batsman who scored the quickest century in terms of minutes at the crease.

Since it has been awarded to the quickest in terms of fewest deliveries needed to reach three figures, Moody's 36-ball ton for Warwickshire against Glamorgan at Swansea in 1990 is the record holder.

Moody smashed his way to a half century in just 11 minutes and brought up his century in just 26 minutes as Warwickshire chased quick runs prior to declaring in order to set their hosts a target.

This they did, and Glamorgan won - that after the visitors had posted 443-3 declared in their first innings on the Gower coast!

● In the history of the Walter Lawrence Trophy, only one Hampshire player has won the award.

That was West Indian master



Gordon Greenidge

blaster Gordon Greenidge, who smashed a hundred in 82 minutes against Sussex at the County Ground in Southampton in 1978. Greenidge had been dismissed for a duck in the first innings!

RECENT WALTER LAWRENCE TROPHY WINNERS

2016	T Kohler-Cadmore 43 balls
2015	D J Willey 40 balls
2014=	S W Billings 46 balls
2014=	D T Christian 46 balls
2013	D I Stevens 44 balls
2012	S B Styris 43 balls
2011	K J O'Brien 44 balls
2010	A C Gilchrist 47 balls
2009	V S Solanki 47 balls
2008	G R Napier 44 balls
2007	M J North 73 balls
2006	M A Ealham 45 balls
2005	I D Blackwell 67 balls
2004	R Johnson 63 balls
2003	D R Martyn 65 balls
2002	M V Fleming 66 balls
2001	I J Harvey 61 balls
2000	D S Lehmann 89 balls
1999	A Flintoff 61 balls
1998=	C L Hooper 72 balls
1998=	A D Brown 72 balls
1997	G D Lloyd 73 balls
1996	G D Lloyd 70 balls
1995	C S Cairns 65 balls
1994	K R Rutherford 72 balls
1993=	P Johnson 73 balls
1993=	M P Maynard 73 balls
1992	M P Speight 62 balls

Hat-trick hero Moeen Ali's numbers game



Moeen Ali

Moeen Ali took a hat-trick to seal a 239-run victory over South Africa in the third Test at The Oval and hand England a 2-1 lead in the four-match series. Here, the Sports Pink examines his career in numbers.

1

Moeen became the first player to take a Test hat-trick at The Oval, which was hosting its 100th Test.

1938

The Worcestershire all-rounder became the first England spinner to

take a Test hat-trick since Tom Goddard, also against South Africa, on 26 December 1938.

13

He is the 13th Englishman to take a Test hat-trick.

40

Number of Test matches he has played for England.

116

Total number of wickets he has taken in his 40 Tests for England.

6

Highest haul of wickets in a single Test innings. He has achieved this on two occasions: six for 67 against India in July 2014 and six for 53 in the first Test earlier this month.

10

Most wickets in a single Test. Moeen took 10 for 112 in the first Test against South Africa earlier this month, where he also recorded his best format bowling figures (above).

Hales and Clarke are new Trophy leaders

Alex Hales and Joe Clarke of Worcestershire are the new joint-leaders in the battle for this year's Walter Lawrence Trophy with 45-ball hundreds.

Opening the batting, Hales smashed his century for Notts Outlaws against Yorkshire Vikings in a thrilling T20 Blast match at Trent Bridge last Sunday.

The 28-year-old England limited overs regular hit four sixes and 14 fours in his first T20 ton for the county as his side chased down 224 to win by 5 wickets with five balls to spare.

On the same day, Joe Clarke, opening for Worcestershire, also posted a 45-ball century against Durham in the T20 Blast match at New Road.

Responding to Durham's innings of 201 for 2, which included a maiden T20 hundred from former England veteran Paul Collingwood, Clarke saw his side home by eight wickets, spanking six sixes and 10 fours.

He finished unbeaten on 124, scored off just 53 balls.

Revelation

Clarke has been a revelation in the opening role after last year's Walter Lawrence Trophy winner Tom Kohler-Cadmore's departure to Yorkshire left a vacancy at the top of the order.

The 21-year-old has represented England Lions and England Under-19s, and is rated as one of the most exciting young batting talents in the game.

Kohler-Cadmore won the award in 2016 for a 43-ball T20 century against Durham at New Road, which included five sixes and 13 fours.

Now in its 83rd year, the Walter



Alex Hales

Lawrence Trophy, awarded for the fastest hundred of the season, is open to all domestic county competitions as well as ODIs, T20 Internationals and Test Matches in England.

● England's World Cup winner, Tammy Beaumont, who won the Walter Lawrence Women's Award last season, is in pole position for this year's prize as well.

That is after her innings of 148

for England against South Africa in the World Cup match at Bristol on July 5.

In a game where records tumbled, her third ODI century came off 145 balls and included a six and 22 fours. She shared a second-wicket stand of 275 with Sarah Taylor, who scored a scorching 147 off 104 balls.

That partnership was the highest in Women's World Cup history, the second highest in Women's ODIs and the highest in England ODIs.

Beaumont went on to finish as leading run-scorer in the World Cup with 410 runs (av 45.55) and was named Player Of The Tournament.

The women's Walter Lawrence Trophy award is for the highest innings in one-day cricket - not the quickest.

● Martin Andersson won this year's MCC Universities Award with a score of 185 for Leeds/Bradford MCCU.

The 20-year-old Reading-born batsman struck 24 fours in his innings, made from 233 balls, in the victory over Durham MCCU at The Racecourse Ground, Durham on May 9.

That was his third consecutive century in the 2017 MCCU Championship, following 138 v Oxford on April 19, and 128 v Cardiff on April 27.

In an impressive season, he compiled 971 runs in 13 matches, at an average of 57.12, including four centuries and three fifties.

The Walter Lawrence Trophy for University players is for the highest innings of the season - not the quickest century. He won £500 for his efforts.

PINK



Mo Farah

Sir Mo Farah - his great numbers

Sir Mo Farah will bring the curtain down on his track racing career this month, competing at the World Championships in London followed by the Muller Grand Prix in Birmingham.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the distance runner's illustrious career in numbers.

2

Farah won an Olympic "double-double", with gold in both the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016

Games.

6

only six athletes - Emil Zatopek, Vladimir Kuts, Lasse Viren, Miruts Yifter, Kenenise Bekele and Farah - have won the distance double in a single Olympics. Viren is the only other man to do so twice, in 1972 and 1976, while Zatopek added the marathon for a unique treble in 1952.

10

successive wins for Farah in

global finals - the 5,000m at the 2011 World Championships, and doubles in the 2013 and 2015 events to add to his Olympic successes, plus Friday's win..

12:53.11

Farah's national record for the 5,000m.

26:46.57

his 10,000m personal best, a European record.

3

he has won three successive Great North Runs.

Golden Mo-ments on the track

Sir Mo Farah successfully defended his World Championship 10,000 metres title in London on Friday night.

If he can do the same in the 5,000 metres it will take the four-time Olympics champion's total of global titles to 11 and continue his unprecedented spell of long-distance domination before he turns his attention to the marathon.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look back at his first nine triumphs:

2011 World Championships, Daegu - 5,000m

Having been pipped at the line by the unknown Ethiopian Ibrahim Jeilan in the 10,000m days earlier, Farah upgraded his silver to gold, holding off a late charge from American Bernard Lagat.

2012 Olympics, London - 10,000m
Farah completed 'Super Saturday' for Great Britain by winning the third of three home gold medals in the Olympic Stadium in one night, kicking away down the home straight.

2012 Olympics, London - 5,000m
Farah became just the seventh man in Olympic history to achieve the 5,000m and 10,000m double, resisting a late attack from Ethiopian Dejen Gebremeskel.

2013 World Championships, Moscow - 10,000m
He gained revenge on Jeilan by powering down the home straight to hold off the Ethiopian and claim



Great Britain's Mo Farah

the only global crown missing from his collection.

2013 World Championships, Moscow - 5,000m
Farah completed the double-double, two world titles to go with his twin Olympic crowns, kicking with 650m to go and holding off a host of challengers down the home straight.

2015 World Championships, Beijing - 10,000m
He put a summer of speculation and rumour behind him to again prove unbeatable on the track, bursting away from the twin Kenyan challenge of Geoffrey Kipsang Kamworor and Paul Tanui down the home straight.

2015 World Championships, Beijing - 5,000m
Helped by the slow early pace, he racked up a seventh straight global title and completed the 'triple double', surging past spent Kenyan Caleb Mwangangi Ndiku to take the victory.

2016 Olympics, Rio - 10,000m
Farah recovered from a fall after being tripped by training partner Galen Rupp to become the first British track and field athlete to win three Olympic golds.

2016 Olympics, Rio - 5,000m
Farah pulled clear down the home straight, holding off the challenge of American Paul Kipkemai Chelimo and Ethiopian Hagos Gebrhiwet to become only the second man after Lasse Viren to retain Olympic 5,000m and 10,000m titles.

Rise of the world transfer record

Neymar this week became the most expensive player in football history after informing Barcelona of his desire to leave amid talk of a 222million euros (£199million) move to Paris St Germain.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the previous players to have broken the record in the last two decades.

Alan Shearer - 1996

£15million (Blackburn to Newcastle)

Having won the Premier League at Blackburn in 1995, all-time Premier League record goalscorer Shearer - who joined Rovers from Saints for a then British record £3.4m in the summer of 1992 - returned to his hometown club a hero.

Ronaldo - 1997

£19.5million (Barcelona to Inter Milan)

The Brazil striker moved on to break the record for the second time in a year but, despite a great scoring ratio, he only won the UEFA Cup during his spell at the San Siro.

Denilson - 1998

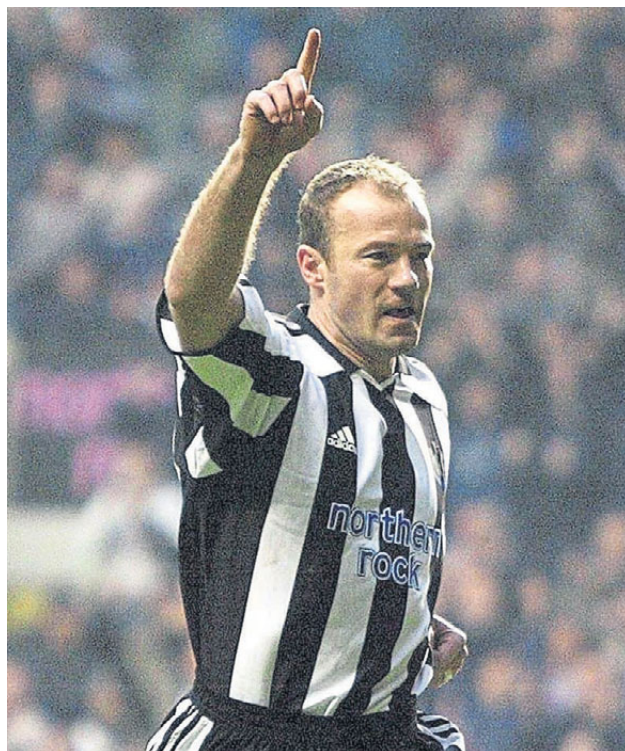
£21.5million (Sao Paulo to Real Betis)

A precocious talent in Brazil, Denilson never made the desired impact after his record move and struggled to hold down a place at Betis before moving on.

Christian Vieri - 1999

£32million (Lazio to Inter Milan)

Eight clubs in as many seasons eventually led Vieri to Inter, where they broke the transfer record once again and he would



Alan Shearer

form a formidable partnership with Ronaldo.

Hernan Crespo

2000: £35.5million (Parma to Lazio)

A year later, Lazio replaced Vieri with Crespo and he ended his first season with the club as Serie A's top goalscorer.

Luis Figo - 2000

£37million (Barcelona to Real Madrid)

The era of the Galacticos truly began with the acrimonious transfer of Portugal winger Figo between the Clasico rivals.

Zinedine Zidane - 2001

£46.6million (Juventus to Real

Madrid)

Madrid continued to build their team of superstars by adding France international Zidane from Juventus - and he went on to become coach at the Bernabeu.

Kaka - 2009

£56million (AC Milan to Real Madrid)

Breaking their own record once again, Kaka's move from Italy was not as successful as Madrid would have hoped but he still lifted a LaLiga title before returning to Milan in 2013.

Cristiano Ronaldo - 2009

£80million (Manchester United to Real Madrid)

Having coveted Ronaldo for a couple of years, Madrid upped their record significantly to land the 2008 Ballon d'Or winner - and the Portuguese went from strength to strength in Spain.

Gareth Bale - 2013

£86million (Tottenham to Real Madrid)

A fifth-straight record broken by Madrid as they returned to England to poach the Premier League's hottest talent - like Shearer, a product of the Saints youth system - this time taking Wales international Bale to Spain, where he would flourish.

Paul Pogba - 2016

£89million (Juventus to Manchester United)

Having left Old Trafford four years earlier for a nominal amount, France midfielder Pogba returned as the new world-record signing.

PINK

'I am a living legend, bask in my glory' - Bolt

Usain Bolt will compete for the final time when he races in the 100 metres and 4x100m relay at the World Championships in London this summer.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some memorable quotes - from the man himself and from those associated with him.

"I am a living legend; bask in my glory." - Bolt's parting statement at the end of his press conference after his 200 metres gold at London 2012.

"I have broken every record there is to break, in every event I have ever done. For me, I have proven myself since I was 15. I have shown I was always going to be great. I am confident in myself and my team, the people I work with. And I know I am clean." - Bolt when asked to defend his own exploits in the light of his rivals Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay failing drug tests.

"I like to entertain, because that's what people come out and see. I try to make it different, this is why people love me so much." - Bolt on his global appeal.

"I'm going to say something controversial. Carl Lewis - I have no respect for him. The things he says about the track athletes are very downgrading. I think he's just looking for attention, because nobody really talks about him. I've lost all respect for him. All respect." - Bolt launches a scathing attack on Carl Lewis over remarks about doping.

"I think he should show more respect for his competitors and shake hands, give a tap on the shoulder to the other ones immediately after the finish and not make gestures like the one he made in the 100 metres. I understand the joy. He might have interpreted that in another way, but the way it was perceived was 'catch me if you can'. You don't do that. But he'll learn. He's still a young man." - Former International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge misjudges the public mood by criticising Bolt's showboating at the Beijing Olympics.

"It has been a pleasure being in the same era as Usain Bolt. The guy's last name is Bolt and he's the fastest man ever, you can't write stories like that." - Two-time Olympic decathlon champion Ashton Eaton shows Rogge how it is done.

"No athlete will ever wish their world records will be broken in their lifetime, I don't want to see them go. I want to brag to my kids when they are 15 or 20-years-old and say: 'See, I'm still the best.'" - Bolt on keeping his 100m and 200m world records.

Usain Bolt - a spectacular career in numbers



Usain Bolt

As Usain Bolt prepares to take his final bow on the world stage at the World Championships in London, the Sports Pink reviews the Jamaican sprinter's career in numbers.

9.58 sec

Bolt's 100m world record, set at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin.

19.19 sec

his 200m record from the same Championships.

36.84 sec

he holds a complete set of sprint world records after Jamaica's relay efforts at the London 2012 Olympics.

27.79mph

Bolt's fastest recorded speed on the track. It was measured from his time of 1.61 seconds for the 60-to-80m split in his record 100m run in Berlin.

8

Olympic gold medals on Bolt's

record. He lost another from the 4x100m relay at Beijing 2008 when team-mate Nesta Carter failed a retrospective drugs test.

11

world titles.

4

times Bolt has been named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year.

6

he has been named IAAF Male Athlete of the Year half a dozen times.

Bolt aims to add to his global haul

Usain Bolt will bid to mark his final appearance at a major championships with another two world titles, in the 100m and 4x100m relay, in London.

The Jamaican already has 19 global gold medals - eight Olympic victories and 11 from the World Championships.

Here are those triumphs:

2008 Olympic Games, Beijing - 100m

Bolt announced himself as a sporting superstar by storming to the 100m crown in a world record 9.69 seconds.

2008 Olympic Games, Beijing - 200m

Ended Michael Johnson's reign as world record holder by racing to victory in 19.30secs.

2009 World Championships, Berlin - 100m

Bolt shattered his world record with a run of 9.58s.

2009 World Championships, Berlin - 200m

Took the 200m mark to new heights by clocking 19.19.

2009 World Championships, Berlin - 4x100m relay

Bolt added a third gold with his Jamaican team-mates in the sprint relay in 37.31.

2011 World Championships, Daegu - 200m

Having been sensationally disqualified from the 100m final for a false start, Bolt won the 200m in 19.40.

2011 World Championships, Daegu - 4x100m relay

Another gold and another world record as Jamaica won the relay in 37.04.

2012 Olympic Games, London - 100m

Bolt defended his crown in 9.63, an



Usain Bolt with one of his many gold medals

Olympic record.

2012 Olympic Games, London - 200m

The first man in history to retain both the Olympic 100m and 200m titles, winning over the longer distance in 19.32.

2012 Olympic Games, London - 4x100m relay

Another world record in the relay, Jamaica winning in 36.84.

2013 World Championships, Moscow - 100m

The 26-year-old defied pouring rain and a drenched track to hold off Justin Gatlin and reclaim his crown in 9.77, his best time of the year.

2013 World Championships, Moscow - 200m

Blazed to victory with an emphatic performance, storming to glory in 19.66.

2013 World Championships, Moscow - 4x100m relay

Took his World Championships career medal tally into double figures by anchoring Jamaica to gold in 37.36.

2015 World Championships, Beijing - 100m

Bolt dashed Gatlin's hopes of 100m in China - living up to his billing as the saviour of athletics as he held off the challenge of two-time drug cheat to win in 9.79.

2015 World Championships, Beijing - 200m

Made it four straight half-lap world titles, blowing away Gatlin with a world-leading 19.55 time.

2015 World Championships, Beijing - 4x100m relay

Anchored Jamaica to victory in a world-leading time of 37.36.

2016 Olympic Games, Rio - 100m

Won in a season's best of 9.81, beating Gatlin into second.

2016 Olympic Games, Rio - 200m

Bolt targeted the world record ahead of the race but rain ruined that prospect, though he won in a season's best time of 19.78.

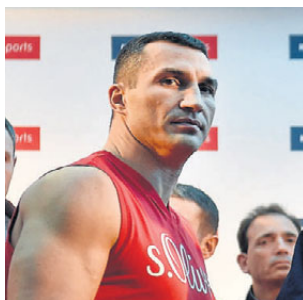
2016 Olympic Games, Rio - 4x100m

The 29-year-old completed what at the time was a 'triple triple' of Olympic sprint titles, taking the baton from Nickel Ashmeade and storming away from second-placed Japan on the final leg.

● Bolt was earlier this year stripped of his 4x100m relay gold medal from the 2008 Olympics after one of his team-mates, Nesta Carter, retrospectively failed a drugs test taken at the Beijing Games.

PINK

Wladimir Klitschko - a career in numbers



Wladimir Klitschko

Wladimir Klitschko has announced his immediate retirement from boxing. Here, the Sports Pink explores the numbers behind the career one of the world's finest ever heavyweights.

69 - The number of fights Klitschko had during his 21-year professional career.

64 - The number of victories he achieved throughout the course of those 69 fights.

53 - The number of those victories that came via knockout.

5 - Professional defeats, by Anthony

Joshua, Tyson Fury, Lamon Brewster, Corrie Sanders and Ross Puritty. Fury was the only of those five to outpoint the Ukrainian.

369 - Rounds boxed.

198 - Klitschko's height, in centimetres, or 6ft 6ins.

206 - Klitschko's reach, in centimetres.

90,000 - The number present at Wembley Stadium on April 29, and a post-war boxing record in the UK, for the fight with Joshua.

23,333,330 - The reported winning purse bid, in US dollars, for Klitschko's 2013 defeat of Russia's Alexander Povetkin.

41 - The age at which Klitschko announced his retirement.

2 - The heavyweight twice reigned as world champion.

11 - He also went 11 years without defeat, between that by Brewster in 2004 and that in 2015 by Fury.

29 - The number of world heavyweight title fights in which he was involved.

Lewis to pay price for great gesture?

Lewis Hamilton heads into the summer break 14 points behind title rival Sebastian Vettel following his impressive sporting gesture at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Hamilton surrendered one spot and what could prove to be three pivotal points to his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas on the final corner of the final lap.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at Hamilton's remarkable show of sportsmanship and the other best bits from the Hungaroring.

1. Hamilton's sporting moment could cost him title

How many drivers on the F1 grid would have replicated Hamilton's selfless move? The answer: very few. Yet it could scupper his championship bid. Vettel's victory marked his fourth of the year at a track which suited the Ferrari package. And after Hamilton allowed Bottas by in the final knockings, Vettel's margin to his rival is 14 rather than 11. The additional points may yet be significant in a title battle where the momentum has continually shifted from Ferrari to Mercedes, and now Mercedes back to Ferrari. But with nine races to run after the four-week summer shutdown, only time will tell how costly Hamilton's gesture proves to be.

2. Ricciardo blames "heat of the moment" for Max criticism

Daniel Ricciardo, so often the chirpiest man in the F1 paddock, was riddled with fury after he was punted out of the race by his Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen. First, Ricciardo labelled Verstappen a "f***** sore loser" on the team radio before flipping his middle finger in the direction of



SPORTING GESTURE: Lewis Hamilton

the Dutch teenager. He then criticised Verstappen's "amateur" driving. But Ricciardo claimed, via a series of Twitter posts, that he has patched up his differences with his junior team-mate. "Yesterday was hard to take," Ricciardo said. "You build up all day for those couple hours of racing and then it's gone like that. Max apologised after the race and we

spoke one on one. The situation was handled and taken care of in the right way to move forward."

3. Raikkonen unimpressed with returning Di Resta

Paul di Resta's shock return after a near four-year absence was one of the stories of the weekend. The Scot, a pundit for Sky Sports, was called up to deputise for Fe-

lipe Massa after the Williams driver fell unwell. But Di Resta's one-off comeback did not go down well with all of the drivers. Just ask Kimi Raikkonen. "What the f*** is this Williams doing?" Raikkonen said after lapping the British driver. "If he cannot see behind then he should stay reporting." Di Resta, 31, was running at the back of the pack for most of the race before he retired with an oil leak.

4. Maverick Alonso is all smiles

Fernando Alonso toasted his best result of the year and the fastest lap of the race by lying on a deckchair underneath the podium celebrations. Alonso crossed the line in sixth to claim only his second points finish of what has been a torrid year for him and McLaren. But not all agreed with the Spaniard's ironic celebration. "Alonso is probably better than the three guys on the podium, but sad he is joking in a deckchair," pundit Martin Brundle tweeted. "Reminds team bosses why they don't want him."

5. Hulkenberg branded a "bully"

Nico Hulkenberg was labelled a "bully" after he called on the stewards to serve Kevin Magnussen a bigger penalty following their clash in the closing laps. Magnussen was hit with a five-second timed penalty after he was deemed to have forced Hulkenberg off the track. "Nico went to the stewards to ask for a harsher penalty for Kevin, which is childish and immature," Magnussen's Haas boss Guenther Steiner said. "He's a bully and he got away with it for a long time and now maybe it's time someone stood up to him."

Book review

*Gentleman and Player
The Story of Colin
Cowdrey, Cricket's Most
Elegant and Charming
Batsman*
By Andrew Murtagh

Sportsbookofthemoth.com price: £18.99

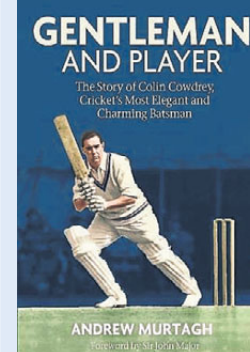
According to former Hampshire county cricketer and author Andrew Murtagh, a batsman has around 0.4 of a second to react to a bowler's extra-fast delivery - ie one that exceeds 90mph.

It's difficult to imagine how it feels to face such a lightning-fast ball careering its way like a missile towards your head, especially in the pre-protective helmet era.

Yet as Murtagh points out, Colin Cowdrey, a man with 114 Test caps, more than 7,000 Test runs and 100 first-class centuries to his credit "knew how to survive and flourish against the very fastest."

Cowdrey was more than an accomplished, gifted and elegant cricketer, though. He readily accepted that bouncers were an integral part of a fast bowler's armoury (even after a sickening whack to the jaw inflicted by Hampshire's Andy Roberts in 1974), but in many respects his attitudes and outlook embodied the game itself.

As Murtagh writes: "Cowdrey believed that you should always carry yourself like a gentleman,



both on and off the pitch, and you should treat your opponent with respect." He disapproved of the abrasive, confrontational posturing that was beginning to take root as his career drew to a close.

The author had to persuade Colin Cowdrey's family that writing another biography of a wonderful cricketer who died at the age of 67 was worthwhile.

They need not have worried. Murtagh's narrative is liberally peppered with illuminating insights that draw upon his previous career as a professional cricketer, a dimension which makes for a particularly engaging read.

Apart from telling a great story, Murtagh also persuaded Sir John Major to write a foreword in which the former PM reveals that he regularly sought Cowdrey's opinion on many subjects over a late-night whiskey.

There are plenty of opportunities to ruminate over the highlights of Colin Cowdrey's career, but perhaps the one that says most about the man is the fact that when granted a memorial service at Westminster Abbey, he became, after Sir Frank Worrell and Bobby Moore, only the third sportsman to have been so honoured.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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Bath Christmas Market & the Cotswolds

A yuletide experience to remember

2 days from £105.00, 26 November, 2 & 9 December 2017

Look no further for a couple of festive days away than this great value break to Bath's famous Christmas Market, where the very best of seasonal shopping, fine food, family fun and entertainment combine with Bath's spectacular Christmas lights. Plus enjoy the beautiful Cotswolds with its lovely honey coloured stone villages.

Highlights & inclusions

- A visit to Bath Christmas Market
- A short tour of the Cotswolds
- Visits to Bourton-on-the-Water and Stow-on-the-Wold
- One night's bed and English breakfast accommodation at the
- Holiday Inn Express in Swindon (or similar)
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



Christmas at Beamish

The magic of Christmas-past

3 days from £209.00, 8 December 2017

Experience all the magic of Christmas-past as you join us on a wonderful festive break that has as its highlight the opportunity to step back in time at the award-winning Beamish Open Air Museum, as well as the chance to soak up the atmosphere of historic York, where the cobbled streets around the Minster are dressed in their seasonal finery.

Highlights & inclusions

- A visit with entrance to Beamish Open Air Museum
- A visit to York Christmas market
- Two nights' three-star standard dinner, bed and buffet breakfast
- hotel accommodation in the North East area
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager



Christmas with the Stars

Carols in the Royal Albert Hall

2 days from £145.00, 5 December 2017

Join us for a starry night of brass bands and melodious choirs, classic carols and sing-along favourites together with some of TV's top stars – all in aid of helping to beat blood cancer. This annual sell-out festive extravaganza, previously called Carols with the Stars, is always full of fun, surprises and Christmas cheer.

Highlights & inclusions

- A Circle Seat at the Royal Albert Hall for 'Christmas with the Stars' (ticket upgrades available)
- A short panoramic London sightseeing tour
- Shopping and sightseeing in London
- One night's bed and continental breakfast accommodation in the Greater London area
- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

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- ✓ The services of a friendly, experienced tour manager
- ✓ Carefully selected, good quality hotels
- ✓ Travel throughout in modern, comfortable coaches
- ✓ Great Value & great quality



Christmas in Spain

A fantastic value festive break

7 days from £519.00, 22 December 2017

Spend the festive season on Spain's beautiful Costa Brava. Enjoy Christmas with all the trimmings in a super hotel – complete with excellent leisure facilities as well as a Christmas Day tour of the dramatic 'Wild Coast'.



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A feast for the eyes

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Britain's largest light festival returns to the historic city for four magical nights and sets the city ablaze with light.

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OLLY MURS / RITA ORA / JAKE BUGG / BAND OF SKULLS

TICKETS FROM **FRI £35 / SAT £42 / SUN £42** ALL TICKET PRICES ARE PER DAY. T&CS APPLY. FEES MAY APPLY

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SOUTHAMPTON



RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

SkyBet Championship

A. Villa L	Hull
L	
HT 1-0	
Bristol C 3	Barnsley 1
Read 16	Hedges 90
Diekhoff 25	
HT 3-0	
Burton Albion 0	Cardiff
	Att 18,742
HT 0-0	
Fulham 1	Norwich
Martin 25 og	
HT 1-0	
Ipswich 1	Birmingham 0
Garnier 50	
HT 0-0	
Preston North End 1	Sheff Wed. 0
Johnson 79 pen	
HT 0-0	
Q.P.R. 2	Reading
Washington 22,59 pen	
HT 1-0	
Sheff Utd 1	Brentford
Sharp 39	
HT 1-0	
Wolves 1	Middlesbro
Leo Bonatini 33	
HT 1-0	

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bristol C	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	3
Q.P.R.	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cardiff	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ipswich	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nottm For	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Preston	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheff Utd	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Wolves	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Derby City	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Fulham	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Norwich	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sunderland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
A. Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Brentford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Burton Albion	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Middlesbro	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Millwall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sheff Wed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Barnsley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
Reading	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

SkyBet League One

Bradford 2	Blackpool 1
Knight-Perceval 41	Daniel 43
Patrick 59	
HT 1-1	
Bury 1	Walsall
Beckford 45	
HT 1-0	
Charlton 1	Bristol R
Bauer 38	
HT 1-0	
Doncaster 0	Gillingham
HT 0-0	
Fleetwood Town 2	Rotherham
McAleny 16,66	
HT 1-0	
M K Dons 1	Wigan
HT 0-1	
Oldham 0	Oxford Utd 2
HT 0-0	
Peterboro 2	Plymouth
Sawyer 4 og	
Morais 47	
HT 1-0	
POMPEY 2	Rochdale 0
Pitman 46,90	
HT 0-0	
Scunthorpe 1	AFC Wimbledon
Townsend 6	
HT 1-0	
Shrewsbury 1	Northmptn
John-Lewis 90	
HT 0-0	
Southend 2	Blackburn
Leonard 27	
Kightly 38	
HT 2-0	

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Fleetwood Tn	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Oxford Utd	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
POMPEY	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bradford	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Peterboro	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Southend	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Bury	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Charlton	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Shrewsbury	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Wigan	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Wimbledon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Scunthorpe	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Doncaster	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gillingham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blackburn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Blackpool	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Bristol R	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
M K Dons	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Northmptn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Walsall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Oldham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SkyBet League Two

Acc Stanley 3	Colchester 1
Jackson 9	Szmodzki 81
Kear 32, Beckles 64	
HT 2-0	
Carlisle 1	Swindon 2
Joyce 55	
HT 0-1	
Chesterfd. 1	Grimsby 3
Dennis 82	
HT 0-2	
Coventry 3	Notts Cnty 0
Jones 29,80,90	
HT 1-0	
Crawley 1	Port Vale 3
Boldewijn 54	
HT 0-2	
Crews 2	Mansfield 2
Porter 45,63	
HT 1-0	
Exeter 1	Cambridge 0
Field 5	
HT 1-0	
Forest Grn 2	Barnet 2
Dudge 41,43	
HT 2-0	
Luton 8	Yeovil
O Lee 12	
Collins 19,58,66	
McCormack 24	
Vassell 36,38	
E Lee 90	
HT 1-0	
Morecambe 2	Cheltenham 1
Thompson 55,90	
HT 0-1	
Stevenage 3	Newport County 3
Gorman 61 pen	
Newton 72	
HT 1-0	
Wycombe 2	Lincoln City
O'Nien 37	
Jacobson 40	
HT 2-1	

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Luton	1	1	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	3
Coventry	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Acc Stanley	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	3
Grimsby	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	3
Port Vale	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morecambe	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Swindon	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
Newport Co	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stevenage	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1
Barnet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
Crews	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Grn	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
Lincoln City	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1
Mansfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1
Wycombe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carlisle	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cheltenham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Cambridge	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chesterfd	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Colchester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Crawley	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0
Notts Cnty	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yeovil	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	0

Ladbrokes Scottish Prem

Celtic 4	Hearts
Griffiths 29,63	Goncalves 84
Sinclair 51	
McGregor 73	
HT 1-0	
Dundee 1	Ross Cnty
Henry 86	
HT 0-1	
Hibernian 3	Partick
Boyle 14	
Whittaker 33	
S Murray 52 pen	
HT 1-0	
Kilmarnock 1	St Johnstn
Boyd 59	
HT 0-1	

P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Celtic	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	3
Hibernian	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	3
Ross Cnty	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3
St Johnstn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abertan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motherwell	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dundee	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Kilmarnock	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Partick	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Hearts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4

Ladbrokes Scottish Ch'ship

Dumbarton 0	Morton 0
HT 0-0	
Inverness CT 0	Dundee Utd
HT 0-0	
Livingston 1	Dunfermline
Pitman 30	
HT 1-0	
Queen Sth 4	Brechin
Lyle 28,42	
Rankin 59	
Dykes 78	
HT 2-0	

St Mirren 3	Falkirk 1
Demetrou 33	Hippolyte 2
Smith 46	
Rally 69	
HT 1-1	

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1

Albion R. 1	Ayr Utd 5
Shields 87	
HT 0-3	
Alloa 1	Raith
Cawley 16	
HT 1-0	
Arbroath 2	Queen Park 0
Dunhill 37	
Yule 62	
HT 1-0	
Forfar 2	Airdrieonians 1
Dunhill 37	
Miller 63	
HT 1-0	
Stranraer 1	East Fife 0
Hamill 65	
HT 0-0	

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2

Annan Athletic 1	Peterhead 2
Watson 28	McCracken 85
HT 1-0	
Berwick 3	Clyde
Irving 45,89	
Murphy 83	
HT 1-1	
Edinburgh City 1	Montrose 3
Allan 83	
HT 0-2	
Elgin 1	Cowdenbth</